Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-056
Wednesday
23 March 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-056 23 March 1994

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO FBIS CENTRAL EURASIA DAILY REPORT READERS

Various Moscow media have announced that, starting on 15 March, their Russian-language services would revert to the Russian rendering of place-names for geographic areas that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, to "protect the Russian language as a national asset." To date, the Russian media have been inconsistent in their usage of Russian and vernacular place-names. Until a consistent pattern is noted, FBIS reports will follow the Russian source's rendering of place-names. If the source rendering varies from the approved FBIS rendering (which is based on lists from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names), the FBIS approved equivalent will follow within square brackets whenever possible.

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 March *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 1
Grachev To Observe Joint CIS Exercises *[Moscow TV]* ____ 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Japan's Hata 'Concerned' Over DPRK Nuclear Issue *[Tokyo KYODO]* ____ 2
Kunadze on Results of Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 2
Moscow 'Concerned' Over IAEA-DPRK Dispute *[Radio Rossii]* ____ 2
Sanctions Not 'Practical' *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 2
Talks With IMF 'Long Way From Compromise' *[INTERFAX]* ____ 3
Premier Signs Credit Statement *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 3
Shokhin Gives Details *[INTERFAX]* ____ 3
FRG's Kinkel Discusses 'Main Political Events' *[DDP/ADN]* ____ 4
Yeltsin Visit Discussed *[DDP/ADN]* ____ 4
Further on 'Constructive' Talks *[Moscow TV]* ____ 4
Yeltsin Sends Message to Kohl *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 4
Kinkel Confirms Yeltsin Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 5
'No Delays' Expected for Russia's Entry into CE *[Moscow Radio]* ____ 5
Kozyrev: 'Chauvinistic Wind Blowing' in U.S. *[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 22 Mar]* ____ 5
Spokesman Welcomes Muslim-Croat Agreement in Bosnia *[INTERFAX]* ____ 6
Foreign Ministry: PLO-Israeli Agreement 'Shaped' *[INTERFAX]* ____ 6
Kondratyev on Troop Withdrawal From Tajikistan *[INTERFAX]* ____ 6
Kondratyev Details Peacemaking Functions, Losses *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* ____ 6
Deputy Minister Hails Uranium Deal With U.S. *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Mar]* ____ 7

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

'Terrorism Cannot Be Ruled Out' in Aeroflot Crash *[Russian TV]* ____ 8
Names of Foreign Passengers *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 8
Reportage on Coup, Health 'Rumors' ____ 8
'Memo' on Plot *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Mar]* ____ 8
Stankevich, Glazyev React *[INTERFAX]* ____ 11
Rutskoy Comments *[INTERFAX]* ____ 12
Rutskoy Not Ready for Civic Accord *[Moscow TV]* ____ 12
Filatov Sees 'Links' *[Moscow TV]* ____ 12
CI Service Knew of Coup *[Moscow TV]* ____ 13
IZVESTIYA Assessment *[22 Mar]* ____ 13
'Realists' Club Formed 'To Resolve' Country's Problems *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Mar]* ____ 15
Administration Reacts to 'Accord for Russia' Group *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 23 Mar]* ____ 15
Yeltsin To 'Cut Short' Holiday on 26 March *[Moscow TV]* ____ 16
Yeltsin Message to Virgin Land Developers Conference *[Radio Rossii]* ____ 16

Court of Appeal Warns NOVYY VZGLYAD Editor *[PRAVDA 19 Mar]* 16

Economic Issues

Agriculture Minister Calls For Producer Protections *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Inflation Slows, Poverty Figures Drop in February *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Mar]* 17
Early March Food Price Movements Monitored *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Mar]* 17
Edict on Savings Depositors' Compensation Scored *[IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]* 17

Military & Space Issues

Grachev on Strengthening Air Defense Forces *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Deputy Defense Minister on Army Reform's Next Phase *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Mar]* 18
Details of Progress M-22 Launch *[ITAR-TASS]* 21

Regional Affairs

Reaction to Vladivostok Mayor's Ouster *[UTRO ROSSII 18 Mar]* 21
Details on Ouster *[VLADIVOSTOK 18 Mar]* 22
Eyewitness to Ouster *[UTRO ROSSII 18 Mar]* 25

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Satisfied on 'Common Positions' With Perry *[INTERFAX]* 26
Defense Minister on Talks *[Kiev International]* 26
Perry Visits Strategic Missile Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* 27
Russia To Resume Supply of Nuclear Fuel *[INTERFAX]* 28
New Agreement With EC To Lift Export Restrictions *[UNIAR]* 28
Zlenko Ratifies Agreement *[Kiev Radio]* 28
Zlenko on Joining 'France-Germany-Poland Axis' *[INTERFAX]* 29
Zlenko, Walesa Sign Pact *[Kiev Radio]* 29

National Affairs

Cabinet Adopts 'New and Energetic' Reform Steps *[Kiev Radio]* 29
Kravchuk Statement on Ukrainian Currency *[Kiev Radio]* 29
Kuchma, Hryvnov Explain Reforms Bloc's Position *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 22 Mar]* 29
Crimean President Announcement of 'Poll' *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 17 Mar]* 30
Election Commission Protests *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 18 Mar]* 31
Commission Supports Referendum *[Kiev Radio]* 31
Donetsk To Hold Poll on Regional Autonomy, Language *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Mar]* 31
Donetsk Autonomy Hope Seen Stymied by Kiev *[ARTSENT 18 Mar]* 32
Zaporozhe Plant First Reactor Shut Down *[INTERFAX]* 32
Official Says Nuclear Power Fulfilling Task *[ITAR-TASS]* 33

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Perry Meets With Defense, Prime Ministers *[Minsk Radio]* 34
Defense Conversion Discussed *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Cabinet Sets Value of Privatization Checks *[Minsk Radio]* 34
Kebich Closes 'Several Ministries' *[INTERFAX]* 34
Hryb Splits Deputies' Duties; Credit Limits Set *[Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information]* 34
Leftist Leader Assesses Current Situation *[RESPUBLIKA 17 Mar]* 35
Liberal Democrats Aim at 'United Slavic State' *[ZVYAZDA 16 Mar]* 36
Signing of Monetary Merger 'Likely before April' *[BELAPAN]* 37
Joint Project To Build Domestic Aircraft Planned *[RID]* 37

Moldova

Yeltsin Envoy Cites 'Time for Pragmatism' *[INTERFAX]* ____ 37
Presents Russian Proposal *[Bucharest Radio]* ____ 37
Russian Role Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* ____ 37
Gagauz Region Requests Right to Self-Determination *[BASAPRESS]* ____ 38
Neutrality Rejected, Integration With West Sought *[BASAPRESS 22 Mar]* ____ 38

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Addresses British Institute in London *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 39
Interviewed in London *[PRAVDA 23 Mar]* ____ 40
Ends Visit To Britain *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 40
Nazarbayev Decrees Crackdown on Crime *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Mar]* ____ 40
Record Snowfalls Delay Launch of Spacecraft *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 40

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Addresses Nation on Navruz Festival *[Bishkek Radio]* ____ 41
Akayev on Ethnic Issues, Neighbour Relations *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Mar]* ____ 41
Iranian Publication Center Opened in Bishkek *[Tehran Radio]* ____ 42

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Mutalibov Blames Aliyev for Karabakh Conflict *[SNARK]* ____ 43
Karabakh Quiet Disrupted by Azerbaijani Attacks *[SNARK]* ____ 43
Commission To Investigate 'Top Officials' *[SNARK]* ____ 43
Parliament Approves 1994 Budget *[SEGODNYA 22 Mar]* ____ 43
Nation To Switch To Summer Time 27 Mar *[SNARK]* ____ 44

Azerbaijan

Aliyev's Novruz Message Calls For Unity *[Baku Radio]* ____ 44
Aliyev on Expectations From NATO Partnership *[Baku Radio]* ____ 45
Aliyev Remarks Seen Against Conciliation *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 22 Mar]* ____ 46
Situation Update Reports New Armenian Attacks *[Baku Radio]* ____ 46
Fighting Reported in Fizuli, Other Regions *[INTERFAX]* ____ 46

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns Entire Cabinet Could Resign *[INTERFAX]* ____ 46
State of Emergency Extended in West to 20 May *[INTERFAX]* ____ 47
Opposition Denounces Shevardnadze, Power System *[INTERFAX]* ____ 47
Agreement on Russian Troops Formation Signed *[Tbilisi Radio]* ____ 47
Shevardnadze Receives Dagestan Delegation *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 17 Mar]* ____ 47
Abkhazian Premier on Need for UN Peace Force *[INTERFAX]* ____ 47
Separatists Introduce 'Quarantine' in Gali Rayon *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 17 Mar]* ____ 48
Deputies Cited on Georgian Energy Crisis *[TRUD 22 Mar]* ____ 48

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Laar Sees No Use for Mediation in Troop Talks *[INTERFAX]* ____ 49
Delegation Head Predicts Difficult Negotiations *[ETA]* ____ 49
Formation of Team To Foster Moldovan Ties Noted *[BNS]* ____ 49
First Deputy From Russian Community To Begin Work *[BNS]* ____ 49

Social Guarantees for Retired Military Drafted *[BNS]* ____ 50
Minister Says Registering Active Military Vital *[BNS]* ____ 51
Russians Given Permission To Dismantle Reactors *[BNS]* ____ 52
Over 16,000 Said To Receive Citizenship by Feb *[BNS]* ____ 52

Latvia

Ministry Reports Christopher Letter *[Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release]* ____ 52
Ulmanis Meets With Troop Withdrawal Delegation *[BNS]* ____ 53
Birkavs Defends Agreement With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* ____ 53
Baltic Ministers Meet With Germany's Kinkel *[DIENA 10 Mar]* ____ 53
Accord on Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Signed *[Vilnius Radio]* ____ 54
World Bank, IMF: Uniform Customs Needed *[BNS]* ____ 54
Family Incomes Register 5.6 Percent Drop in 1993 *[LETA]* ____ 55

Lithuania

Baltic Presidents To Discuss Cooperation, Relations *[BNS]* ____ 55
Premier, Russian Officials Confer on Housing *[INTERFAX]* ____ 55
Further Details of Discussions *[Vilnius Radio]* ____ 55
Belarusian Envoy on Ties, Alleged Claims *[TIESA 15 Mar]* ____ 56
Foreign Minister on Draft Treaty With Poland *[RESPUBLIKA 16 Mar]* ____ 57
Embassy Reports on Progress of Moscow Talks *[Vilnius Radio]* ____ 58
'Right-Wing Radicals' Oppose Treaty with Poland *[IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]* ____ 58
Rendering of Credits Temporarily Suspended *[ELTA]* ____ 59
Opposition Questions Status of Oil Terminal *[ELTA]* ____ 59

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 March

LD2303082694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0744 GMT 23 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on a meeting between Sergey Filatov, Russian president's chief of staff, and Aslambek Akbulatov, Chechen secretary of state.

Filatov and Akbulatov met in Moscow on Monday. According to sources from Grozzyy, arrangements for a meeting between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev were discussed. The two presidents' meeting has been so far postponed for an indefinite time, the sources said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on mounting interest in Yuriy Skokov: "Yuriy Skokov, chairman of the Federation of Commodity Producers (FCP), has markedly increased his activity of late. His activity and particularly the FCP efforts aimed at softening a sweeping production downturn, it seems, wins support not only among industrialists and trade unions but also among entrepreneurs, who until recently viewed him rather sceptically. Interest in Skokov is also mounting in view of his intention to run for the presidency in 1996".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on the unlikelihood of a Crimean-Ukrainian war.

"It is unlikely that there will be a war between the Crimea and Ukraine in the coming days. At any rate, this is how it looks like on the 45th day of Yuriy Meshkov's presidency in the Crimea, although Defence Ministry officials in Kiev, in their interviews with Ukrainian news media, increasingly often speak about the need to stabilise the situation in the Crimea and their readiness to restore order there by force.

"At a time when people are concerned about their future and living standards disastrously decline, politicians often dream about a war."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the spectre of civil war in Russia: "The spectre of civil war has been roaming Russia for several years now. Persistence with which it is evoked is little connected with the real living conditions but is closely linked with the actions of some or other power and social structures.

"This time the phantom of civil war has arisen from the State Duma's political amnesty decision. The Duma was also the first to try to neutralise the consequences of its own decision with a memorandum of accord—well aware, most likely, that peaceable rhetoric will be just rhetoric but that political struggle will gain in keenness, which would be dangerous to the country's tranquility but beneficial to certain social forces.

"This is traditional for Russian life: a problem is brought about and then everyone rushes to find a solution".

TRUD on businesses' disagreement with Russian state customs committee decision to raise import duties.

Directors of 12 major commercial organisations engaging in the import and marketing of food from abroad, have expressed their disagreement with the state customs committee decision to raise import duties.

"The reasons for such rejection are understandable: the import of food has long become an indispensable condition for the functioning of the consumer market in large cities".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an exclusive interview with U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry in Moscow.

The newspaper quotes Mr Perry as saying that he encountered scepticism among some members of the State Duma about the sincerity of the U.S. desire to maintain equitable cooperation with Russia. In view of that, Mr Perry told Duma members that a businesslike pragmatic partnership must be the two countries' common objective.

PRAVDA runs an interview with prominent publicist Boris Oleynik.

"Any provocateurs, hired under any contract, can march under various banners—red, golden-blue or other ones. The banners are not to blame, but those who brandish them bear special responsibility," Oleynik pointed out.

Grachev To Observe Joint CIS Exercises

LD2303101194 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Early this morning, Russia's Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, left for Tajikistan.

[Begin Grachev recording] First, these are planned exercises involving units from the 201st [motorized rifle] Division. Second, they are coalition exercises, since subunits from the Armed Forces of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will participate in the exercises. The whole essence of these exercises is that for the first time, the exercises are taking place with the subunits of various states, that is, CIS states.

I have set myself the main task of checking the combat readiness of the units in the 201st Division, their military training, the coordination of the subunits, and also the individual training of NCOs, privates, and officers. [end recording]

[Correspondent] But it is not just the joint exercises that interest the minister; Grachev is taking a collection of musical instruments on behalf of the Russian Children's Foundation. Humanitarian aid is also going with him, sent by General Burlakov, the commander of the Western Group of Forces. All this is for the children of the 201st Division of Russian troops in Tajikistan.

Japan's Hata 'Concerned' Over DPRK Nuclear Issue

OW2103232994 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 21 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata reiterated on Monday [21 March] he was "gravely concerned" over the issue of North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

At a press conference in Moscow prior to his departure to Tokyo, Hata requested North Korea to accept full inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He said he was "gravely concerned" that the IAEA could not confirm North Korea was not converting nuclear material for military use.

In Vienna, the IAEA adopted a resolution on Monday to refer North Korea's refusal to allow full inspections of its nuclear facilities to the United Nations Security Council.

Hata also said if the United Nations decides any sanctions against North Korea, Japan would like "to take a responsible action as a nation which regards the UN as most important."

Karasin on Results of Visit

LD2203183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—The Russian and Japanese sides expressed common aspiration for the intensification of the whole complex of Russo-Japanese ties, the development of relations up to the level of genuine partnership and deepening of mutual understanding, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here today.

The briefing was devoted to the results of the March, 19-21 visit to Russia of Tsutomu Hata, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Japan. The head of the Japanese Foreign Office was received by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Participants in the talks spoke for maintaining the new political climate in bilateral relations in accordance with the provisions of the Tokyo declaration signed in October last year by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Both sides expressed the intention to raise the level of the Russo-Japanese inter-governmental dialogue on trade and economic issues with the aim of further intensification of mutually beneficial ties in this sphere. Moscow and Tokyo agreed to continue contacts on the issues connected with the advancement to the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two countries including within the framework of the working group on a peace treaty at the level of deputy foreign ministers.

Both sides expressed understanding that the solution to the territorial problem which is one of the aspects of a peace treaty, requires gradual and careful actions within the framework of the existing agreements.

When discussing international issues, Grigoriy Karasin said, Russian and Japanese foreign ministers stated similarity or closeness of positions on a majority of actual problems. Serious attention was given to the situation in the Asian-Atlantic region where both sides see the possibility to continue specific interaction in the settlement of the current problems.

Tsutomu Hata and Andrey Kozyrev confirmed common understanding of the need to continue active contacts and promote progressive development of the Russo-Japanese political dialogue with the aim of strengthening goodneighborly relations, partnership and trust between the two countries in the interests of the peoples of Russia and Japan.

Both sides attach priority significance to carrying out an intensive preparation for a new Russo-Japanese summit meeting during an official visit of Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to Moscow the date of which will be agreed upon additionally through diplomatic channels.

Moscow 'Concerned' Over IAEA-DPRK Dispute

LD2203190794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow is concerned about the course of the fulfillment of the agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea. This was stated at a briefing today by Gregory Karasin, director of the Department of Information and Press of the Russian Foreign Ministry. In particular, he called attention to a statement by Pyongyang that puts in doubt the constant inspection by the IAEA of North Korean nuclear installations and threatens to leave the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Russian diplomat stressed that North Korea should remain a participant in the treaty and fully implement its obligations. Grigory Karasin spoke in favor of bilateral and multilateral talks aimed at removing tension around this question.

Sanctions Not 'Practical'

LD2303152994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1424 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 23 Mar—We appeal to the sides for a political solution to the Korean peninsula problem, questions must be tackled by political and diplomatic

measures, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by a high-ranking representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The efforts of Russian diplomacy are directed at this. We are in contact with all the sides. The heat of passion should be lowered. Russia is firmly pursuing the line of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, including on the Korean peninsula.

Replying to a question regarding the possibility of economic sanctions by the international community against the DPRK, which is suspected of developing nuclear weaponry, the Russian diplomat noted that the problem of sanctions did not yet stand on a practical plane. Sanctions are an extreme measure after all political possibilities have been exhausted, he stressed in conclusion. [passage omitted]

Talks With IMF 'Long Way From Compromise'

LD2203162594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The brief talks held in Moscow Tuesday morning [22 March] between a Russian delegation and a mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "had a working character". "The stands taken by the two sides were a long way from compromise," INTERFAX was told by a senior official from Russia's Finance Ministry.

The IMF delegation wants the main differences connected with the granting of the 2nd half of the $1.5 Bn [billion] credit to be discussed between Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the head of the IMF, Michel Camdessus.

The two men are to confer Tuesday evening, the Finance Ministry source said. The acting Finance Minister, Sergey Dubinin, is expected to join them.

This stand will make it possible for the IMF leadership "not to miss the main thing" during the upcoming meeting with Chernomyrdin—that is obtain official assurances on the fundamental issues, the Finance Ministry official said.

In answer to INTERFAX's question about prospects for the work of the IMF mission in Moscow after Camdessus's departure, the source said that two possibilities are the most probable.

First: further talks will be halted after fruitless meetings between the head of the IMF and the Russian leadership. The other possibility is this—the dialogue will continue, provided that Moscow and the IMF reach a compromise. In this case the two sides will have to coordinate "three or four" figures connected with the parameters of Russia's economy.

Premier Signs Credit Statement

LD2203205194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2028 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus signed a statement tonight to regulate further bilateral activities on the issuance of the second part of the IMF system credit worth of 1.5 billion U.S. dollars to Russia.

Under the document, Camdessus will submit to the IMF board of executive directors all documents necessary for the soonest issuance of the credit before April 15, and the Russian Government will submit to the parliament a number of documents to ensure the increase of the Russian budget's revenues.

The statement states that the International Monetary Fund highly values efforts of the Russian Government to make the 1994 budget.

Chernomyrdin told correspondents upon the statement signing ceremony, he values high today's agreement of Russia and the IMF.

"In fact, we have outlined a plan of actions on the 1995 IMF credit," said the premier. He thanked IMF specialists for assistance and support of their Russian colleagues in the elaboration of the Russian 1994 budget.

Shokhin Gives Details

LD2303130994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1247 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] On Tuesday evening in Moscow, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, signed a joint statement on allocation to Russia of the second part of the systemic transformation credit totaling $1.5 billion.

According to the document, the Russian cabinet accepts the obligation to take into consideration the IMF recommendations on the budget. Camdessus pledges to submit for consideration a draft resolution on allocation of the second part of the systemic credit to the board of directors of this international organization.

In his interview with journalists, Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, who participated in the talks, explained that the Russian Government obligated itself to prepare and forward a package of legislative initiatives to the State Duma before mid-April. The documents are aimed at revising and partially suspending several presidential decrees and laws and government resolutions, which lead to a growth on the expenditure part of the budget, and at proposing concrete measures to fulfill the revenues part.

According to Shokhin, the decision to allocate the second part of the IMF systemic credit opens the way for Russia to receive the so-called second rehabilitation credit of the World Bank amounting to $600 million and grants opportunities to restructure the foreign debt to be paid off in 1994.

Shokhin added that the draft budget prepared by the government and forwarded to the State Duma already contains foreign credits for 1994 totaling $2.1 billion.

Having signed this joint statement, the International Monetary Fund in fact showed its approval of the government's activity in the economic sphere, said Shokhin.

Chernomyrdin reported to journalists that he had discussed the issue on the IMF credit during his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Sochi because, he said, it is "a very serious issue."

For his part, Camdessus said that in the course of the negotiations in Moscow he was convinced of the Russian president's and government's resolution to pursue the course of reforms.

FRG's Kinkel Discusses 'Main Political Events'

LD2303113994 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 1029 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Moscow (DDP/ADN)—There are no differences of opinion in German-Russian relations, the foreign ministers of the two countries, Klaus Kinkel and Andrey Kozyrev, said in Moscow today following talks. Germany and Russia shared the same positions on the main political events of the moment, they stressed.

During a joint news conference, Kinkel reaffirmed that Germany "will support with all its power the signing of a long-overdue cooperation agreement between the European Union and Russia." Germany would have ample scope for this when it assumed the EU Presidency on 1 July. He said Russia remained a reliable partner, both multilaterally and bilaterally.

Kinkel gave the Russian Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov a personal message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl regarding the return of cultural items.

Kinkel and Kozyrev said they also discussed preparations for the planned visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Germany in May. Kinkel said he had gained the impression during his stay that Yeltsin was in full control of the situation in Russia.

The ministers said their meeting also covered international issues such as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Middle East. Kinkel praised Russia's involvement in securing a compromise between the warring parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Visit Discussed

LD2303083994 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 0740 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Moscow (DDP/ADN)—Preparations for the visit to Germany of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in May as well as matters of security policy formed the focus of talks between the two countries' foreign ministers in Moscow this morning. Andrey Kozyrev and Klaus Kinkel also intended to discuss Russian involvement in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" initiative, as well as bringing the Russian Federation closer to the European Union. Kinkel arrived in the Russian capital overnight for a brief visit. [passage omitted]

The ministers also wanted to discuss the scope for ending the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as continuing the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Kinkel will end his visit this afternoon by officially opening a retraining center for Russian military personnel returning from Germany. The training center, which focuses on commercial and technical professions, was built with German assistance.

Further on 'Constructive' Talks

LD2303123094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian and German foreign ministers discussed about 20 questions today in a constructive and friendly atmosphere. There is wide range of consensus on ways of settling the Bosnian conflict following the agreement which was signed in Washington and the Zagreb talks involving the Russian side. Kinkel and Kozyrev are convinced that, even after the Hebron tragedy, areas for Palestinian-Israeli contact have emerged. Bonn will support us over cooperation with the G-7, the European Union and the Council of Europe. Kinkel noted that there were two reasons for the visit: firstly, the meeting of the mixed commission on the return of cultural treasures and, secondly, preparations for the May visit by President Yeltsin to Germany.

Yeltsin Sends Message to Kohl

LD2303114194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Kalintsev and Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a personal message to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. In the message, the Russian president set out his views on the solution of the problem of mutual return of cultural values transferred in the years of the Second World War and as a result of its consequences.

The message was handed over on Wednesday by Russian Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov to German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The Russian and the German ministers head a bilateral commission on mutual restoration of cultural values. The commission began its work in Moscow's President-Hotel on Wednesday morning.

Kinkel Confirms Yeltsin Visit

LD2303133094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Kalintsev and Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Germany will be paid at the scheduled time, in May, Klaus Kinkel, foreign minister of the Federal Republic of German, told a briefing at the Russian foreign Ministry building today after the end of the consultations which he conducted with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

Touching on the press speculations about the state of health of the Russian president, the head of the German Foreign Office stressed that "the German side has not any doubts about the Russian president's capacity to act".

The forthcoming official visit to Bonn of the head of the Russian state, the german foreign minister said, is called upon to make an important contribution to the development of goodneighborly relations and partnership between the two countries.

With the same purpose President Boris Yeltsin will participate in a send-off ceremony of the Russian troops withdrawal from Germany in August this year.

'No Delays' Expected for Russia's Entry into CE

LD2303132294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1130 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] There will be no delays and procrastination from the Council of Europe [CE] in accepting Russia into this international organization. This is the result of the meetings in Strasbourg between Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, and the plenipotentiary representatives of the CE member countries. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by sources close to the Russian delegation that the procedure for accepting Russia into the Council of Europe has reached the decisive stage.

Kozyrev: 'Chauvinistic Wind Blowing' in U.S.

BR2303115194 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 22 Mar 94 p 9

[Article by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev: "Russia Is Predestined To Be a Great Power"]

[Text] There is only one way to achieve an open, stable, and democratic Russia: Close cooperation between Russia and the United States. But then both parties must be prepared to compromise.

Unfortunately, I must say that in these confusing times we cannot count on much understanding and support from our friends and allies in the West.

Even at this critical moment, now that the democrats need full support, we are hearing Western threats that economic cooperation with Russia will be limited.

Some comments show an almost manic desire for a world with just one great power: the United States. This is not very realistic. The United States cannot deal with all the world's problems on its own; if it were to try, it would just weaken itself.

Moreover, even in this difficult transitional period, Russia remains a superpower. Not just because of its arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles, but also because of its natural resources, technological skills, and strategic location.

There are reactionary forces in both the United States and Russia, the military-industrial and bureaucratic complexes that are afraid of losing influence, that are striving for an end to the present cooperation. They are spreading myths: "Since Russia is simply condemned to eternal totalitarian governments, always in confrontation with the outside world, it can never, from a historical point of view, travel the same path as the West."

It appears that some Western politicians, in Washington and elsewhere, see Russia as a younger rather than an equal partner. In this view of things a "good Russian" is always a follower and never a leader.

Right from the start, politicians in both Russia and the West who thought pragmatically based their policy on two assumptions. First, Russia is predestined to be a great power, not a second-rank power. Under a communist or nationalist regime it is aggressive and a threat, while under a democratic government it would be peaceful and prosperous.

Second, cooperative links, like those between the United States and Russia, do not prevent forceful and even aggressive policies to defend self-interests.

This can sometimes lead to disagreement. That is not serious, as long as the situation remains one of compromise rather than confrontation. It is naive to expect that great powers like Russia and the United States must and can always live together in harmony.

A particularly promising example of cooperation was the U.S. readiness to involve Russian experts in determining the principles for the export of militarily useful technology from the West to the former Communist countries and countries which are accused of supporting terrorism.

How should the Russian democrats answer the new chauvinistic wind blowing in Washington? Russia cannot agree to playing a subordinate role in the world. That would be unjust and politically dangerous. Extreme nationalists and other reactionaries would quickly reap a profit.

While the idea that the Americans are in charge of the world is dangerous, there remains an urgent need for

U.S. leadership because of the special position of the United States in the G-7 and NATO.

NATO was set up to resist communism and defend the Western democracies from the threat emanating from it. But nowadays NATO is no longer sufficient for two reasons: It no longer has communism as its greatest enemy and Russia is not a member.

What role could NATO play in solving the big international conflicts? The organizational problems could be solved in part by the Partnership for Peace proposed by the United States, which various countries in Eastern and Central Europe have in the meantime joined and which is also acceptable to Russia.

But even this should not be seen as true cooperation, as has been painfully demonstrated in the Bosnian crisis. The NATO ultimatum on Sarajevo was made while Russia was not involved in any way. It is unacceptable to exclude Russia from attempts to solve the situation in Bosnia, where Russia has present and future interests.

We must urgently make a start on a strategy for achieving a mature and realistic relationship—dare we call it realpolitik?

Spokesman Welcomes Muslim-Croat Agreement in Bosnia

LD2203163694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin welcomed the agreements signed in Washington between Bosnian Muslims and Croats. "We view them as a substantial link in the general chain of international efforts aimed at untying the Bosnian knot," he said.

Nevertheless, the diplomat said, there are still several unclear questions, above all concerning the possible status of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and territorial limits.

"Considering that relations between the Serbs and the Croats are of key importance in the endeavors to resolve the entire Yugoslav crisis, Russian diplomacy is building up its efforts in this direction along the Belgrade-Zagreb and the Zagreb-Pale line," he said. "We expect that it will become possible to reach an agreement on ceasing fire and halting military actions on Tuesday [22 March] as a result of talks to be held in the Russian embassy in Zagreb between the Croat leaders and local Serbs," he said.

Foreign Ministry: PLO-Israeli Agreement 'Shaped'

LD2203183894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] An official representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigory Karasin, said that an agreement between the PLO and Israel on continuation of the Mideast peace talks and a final agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho had been shaped during the contacts the Russian president envoy Viktor Posuvaluk had with the PLO leadership, the Israeli delegation and U.S. and Norwegian high-ranking diplomats in Tunis.

According to Karasin, Posuvaluk had transferred a personal message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The message calls for renewal of the talks and confirms the intention of the Russian co-sponsor to contribute to implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution 904.

Russia believes that the adoption of this resolution, in particular providing for international participation in ensuring safety for Palestinians living on the occupied territories, creates the necessary atmosphere for a move forward in the Arab-Israeli dialogue, the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative Karasin said.

Kondratyev on Troop Withdrawal From Tajikistan

LD2203165194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Russia's Deputy Defense Minister General Georgiy Kondratyev in an interview with INTERFAX Tuesday [22 March] said he was opposed to the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from Tajikistan. He said Tajikistan would plunge into a new war as soon as Russian troops were gone. On the plight of the Russian community there, Kondratyev said there was no possibility of evacuating them to Russia at the moment because of the country's economic hardships.

The general said that Russian peacekeepers were used as a stopgap in areas of conflict or wars which might spill over to Russian territory if no measures were taken in time.

He also spoke of Russia's geopolitical interests saying that an estimated 25 million Russians living in other republics of the former Soviet Union needed protection.

Kondratyev Details Peacemaking Functions, Losses

PM2303105394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 2

[Nikolay Burbyga report on interview with Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev; place and date not given: "Russian Peacemaking Forces In Operation...."]

[Text] Information on the status of peacemaking forces was released 22 March by the Russian Ministry of Defense.

At present, Russian troop contingents are performing peacemaking missions in Bosnia (UN peacemaking forces), Tajikistan (collective CIS peacemaking forces), the Dniester Region, and South Ossetia.

In January 1994, the independent Russian infantry battalion in Bosnia was increased to 1,200 men. The battalion is serving in the "East" sector. The bulk of the battalion's forces are located on the 36 checkpoints separating the forward positions of the Serbs and Croats. For the purposes of monitoring the cease-fire in Sarajevo, a Russian battalion unit (400 men) completed a two-day march along mountain roads and took up positions along the dividing line.

In the Dniester Region, Russian peacekeeping forces are represented by four motorized infantry battalions with an overall strength of around 1,800 men.

In South Ossetia, there is one motorized infantry battalion numbering 523 men. Apart from this, there are around 1,000 Russian servicemen in Abkhazia.

Russian peacekeeping forces are subordinate to the Ministry of Defense, which exercises command and control through Deputy Minister Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev. General Kondratyev explains:

[Kondratyev] Peacekeeping forces are made up purely of volunteers from among servicemen's ranks. They undergo special training at a Russian Army training center. Personnel participate in dividing the conflicting sides, escorting humanitarian aid cargoes, evacuating the population from combat zones, and blocking the flow of weapons into the conflict zones. However, it is worth distinguishing between the terms "peacekeeping forces" and "collective peacemaking forces" in which we are taking part. The collective peacemaking forces comprise the 201st Motorized Infantry Division with reinforcements, which is stationed in Tajikistan. Not long ago, the 27th Guards Motorized Infantry Division and the 45th Guards Motorized Infantry Division, as well as an independent parachute battalion, were allocated from the Russian Armed Forces to perform peacemaking functions.

[Burbyga] What losses have been incurred by the troop contingents performing peacemaking functions?

[Kondratyev] Unfortunately, there have been losses. In all, we have lost 107 men, and 193 servicemen have been wounded.

As of today, five groups of Russian UN military observers are taking part in peacekeeping operations being performed under the aegis of the United Nations. There are 16 men in the Near East. That is, eight in Egypt, four in Israel, three in Syria, and one in Lebanon, while there are 15 men on the Iran-Kuwait border, 30 men in the Western Sahara, two men in Cambodia, and 23 servicemen in Yugoslavia.

[Burbyga] What kind of funds are being earmarked to finance these operations?

[Kondratyev] In 1992 alone, over 2.5 billion rubles [R] (at 1992 prices) were spent on financing peacekeeping operations on former Union territory from the Defense Ministry budget, while in 1993 this figure was over R26 billion. [Kondratyev ends]

As of 22 March, the number of dead among servicemen performing peacemaking functions was 107, while the number of wounded was 193.

In terms of regions, the figures break down as follows:

	dead	wounded
Former Yugoslavia	2	15
Dniester Region	16	23
South Ossetia	2	1
North Ossetia, Ingushetia	28	60
Abkhazia	6	15
Tajikistan	53	77

Deputy Minister Hails Uranium Deal With U.S.

PM2303100594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Mar 94 First Edition p 4

[ITAR-TASS report: "Deal With United States Is Advantageous"]

[Text] The "uranium deal" with the United States is advantageous to Russia, Nikolay Yegorov, Russian Federation deputy minister of atomic energy, believes. It will help Russian enterprises to survive.

On his return from Washington, where he signed an appropriate document with the U.S. secretary of commerce, Nikolay Yegorov disclosed that over the next two years Russia will now be able to supply the United States with up to 3,000 tonnes of uranium concentrate and a considerable quantity of enriched uranium worth a total of $150 million. Previously there were no deliveries in view of the agreement imposed on Russia in 1992 whereby the export of Russian uranium was authorized only at prices that were effectively 1.5 times the world prices, the deputy minister emphasized.

Now an opportunity is opening up to resume sales on U.S. markets, which will help Russian uranium-extracting enterprises to improve their position. A special feature of the new agreement is the establishment of a procedure for joint sales whereby 50 percent of the Russian deal is combined with a similar quantity of American sales, and this mixed uranium is sold to consumers.

"The next two years will be especially difficult for Russia," Nikolay Yegorov said. "So the extra sources of freely convertible currency will come in very handy."

Political Issues

'Terrorism Cannot Be Ruled Out' in Aeroflot Crash

LD2303115194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer Aleksandr Saporbnikov] [passage omitted] Several different versions of what happened to the plane have already emerged. According to Yuriy Korenevskiy, deputy head of the air transport department of Russia's Transport Ministry, the plane's abrupt fall and crash could only have been caused by instantaneous decompression of the interior, caused by an explosion aboard the aircraft or collision with another object. However, Korenevskiy said that the professionalism and training of the A-310 crew is not in any doubt.

Yuriy Voronbyev, first deputy minister for emergencies, said literally the following: The plane crash in Siberia happened suddenly. The crew did not transmit an SOS. So, the possibility of an act of terrorism cannot be ruled out.

Names of Foreign Passengers

LD2305084394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—23 foreigners were reportedly killed in the A-310 aircrash, according to the list of passengers received by TASS on wednesday.

They include (spelling may be incorrect):

Heike Chang, Mr Gould, Daniel Lam, Waimin Wong, Hsush Chang, Mr Chow, A. Deaville, Guodzu Geng, Mr Ho, Juanyonsde, Kwangs Kang, Mr Kapoor, Liyen Lee, Chinjen Liu, Chiuo Lo, Mr. Newport, Hy Ng, O. Samuel, Scottknigh, Chinwe Yang, Shoun Zhang, Weiguo Zhou, Xuelu Zhou.

The plane which belonged to the "Russian International Airlines, was pilotred by pilots first class Andrey Danilov, Yaroslav Kudrinsky and Igor Piskaryov.

They were all experienced pilots which a flight record of 650-900 hours, TASS learned from Director General of the airlines Valeriy Yekskuryan. He said that all 63 passengers and crew, including nine stewards were killed in the crash.

According to reports from the site of the crash, rescue operations are impeded by heavy snow and mountainous landscape.

Reportage on Coup, Health 'Rumors'

'Memo' on Plot

PM2203142394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Feature comprising "Confidential" memo followed by "Our Commentary" by Vladimir Zaynetdinov: "Spring Buds Are Swelling, Along With Coup Rumors"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The Moscow political and journalistic worlds are in turmoil: The specter of another putsch is abroad within the Sadovoye beltway. Our correspondent was one of the first to see its real ghost (but is it real?). A late-night phone call got him out of bed during the night of 17 March. The caller was.... In a nutshell, quite an influential and well-informed person with quite a good post in a very important state structure. Without beating around the bush he immediately asked him to turn on the fax machine and take a look at a document. Once our correspondent had read it, he was jolted into wakefulness, and discussion over the phone was out of the question. In short, that same night your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent found himself in the office from which the fax had been sent. We fully retain the spelling and punctuation of the document.

Confidential
Theory 1
(according to information as of 16 March 1994)
Attention! Upon the emergence of a new theory the previous ones are discarded.

According to available information, a group of statesmen—First Deputy Prime Minister O. Soskovets, General Staff Chief M. Kolesnikov, and Moscow Mayor Yu. Luzhkov—plan to make an attempt to depose Boris Yeltsin. V. Shumeyko, M. Poltoranin, and B. Mikhaylov (chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee on the Press. That is what the document says—Editorial Office) reportedly also belong to the group. There is information that the members of the group do not intend to involve S. Shakhray, as one of them put it in a private conversation, "Shakhray used to be one of our people, but now the little creep is no longer on our side."

The overall plan of action to remove B. Yeltsin from power is as follows. Those listed above have already held tentative talks with P. Grachev, V. Yerin, and S. Stepashin (defense minister, internal affairs minister, and director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service respectively—Editorial Office), and by employing various arguments managed to obtain their agreement not to take countermeasures. In addition, B. Mikhaylov is currently trying to establish contacts with Ye. Primakov's (director of the Foreign Intelligence Service—Editorial Office) inner circle. A pretext for launching the action should be an address by a prominent public figure or an industrialist on the "Ostankino" first television channel putting forward the initiative in question and giving as reasons the deterioration of the president's

health and his physical inability to run the country. To substantiate the argument, a television documentary should be shown portraying the president as a man of poor health and a heavy drinker at that. (According to information in the hands of the editorial office, such a program has been prepared at a foreign television company's studios. The instigator is Yuriy Skokov, chairman of the Association of Commodity Producers. It is also known that law enforcement organs have a copy of this television program.) Then the aforementioned statesmen plan to initiate through their allies in the State Duma the constitutional procedure of handing provisional presidential powers over to V. Chernomyrdin so as to hold emergency presidential elections in the country within the next three months. The chiefs and activists of the Russian Federation Communist Party State Duma faction are aware of the group's plans, and Chernomyrdin's assumption of power suits them, but they are displeased with the presence of Yu. Luzhkov in the group.

According to available reports, the action is scheduled to be carried out in March, or at the latest April of this year. Considered as a preliminary option is the imposition of a state of emergency or some elements of it, possibly on limited territories, under the pretext of the difficult economic situation and the struggle against crime.

The first attempt to [illegible]he action was made 10 March—on that day Yu. [illegible]kov was scheduled to make a television address and the documentary was to be shown. V. Chernomyrdin himself left on that day for Nizhniy Novgorod and then set out for Finland. P. Grachev was in Germany at the time. The attempt fell through, however, because A. Yakovlev, chief of the "Ostankino" State Television and Radio Company, refused to provide television airtime and advised the president's inner circle of the intentions. Immediately afterward, a number of those who were directly or indirectly involved in the action left Moscow: Yu. Skokov for Germany, M. Kolesnikov for France (he will return on 16 March). S. Stepashin was hospitalized.

According to other information, Yu. Skokov's television address and the showing of the documentary did not take place because the instigators of the action decided to postpone them until a later date, doubting whether preparations for the action were complete. A number of the instigators of the action believe that they have not yet formulated their own ideology, so B. Yeltsin should remain in the post of president for the time being.

It should be noted that during that same week when the unsuccessful attempt to depose Boris Yeltsin was made and also during the preceding two or three weeks a whole range of politicians, primarily those in opposition to the president, made statements about the need for Boris Yeltsin to resign one way or another and for early presidential elections to be held. One argument in favor of B. Yeltsin's resignation was his inability to function in this post in view of his state of health. Articles in the press on this subject and analyses of possible candidates for the post of president also began to appear in the press.

Despite the initial failure, the group of aforementioned statesmen have not given up their plans to depose Boris Yeltsin by using an approximately similar plan of action. Currently, talks are under way with R. Vyakhirev, chief of the "Gazprom" joint-stock company, to persuade him to deliver an address similar to the one Yu. Skokov failed to make.

Given that, it is noteworthy that P. Grachev postponed his working visit to the Leningrad Military District, which was scheduled for 14 March. This was done at the eleventh hour, when airplanes with a Defense Ministry delegation and a group of journalists had already left. The official explanation is the need for reliable control of strategic nuclear forces in the absence from Moscow of Supreme Commander in Chief B. Yeltsin and Chief of General Staff M. Kolesnikov. During the afternoon of 14 March a number of staffers of the Defense Ministry press service tried to circulate via "tame" journalists the story that P. Grachev had stayed on in Moscow to see off B. Yeltsin when he left for Sochi and thus to demonstrate yet again his good relationship with the president.

Some career officers in the Defense Ministry and General Staff regard the story regarding control of nuclear forces as "another ridiculous claim" since in normal circumstances there is no need for the defense minister to have constant personal control over these troops. And in an emergency the minister would be unable independently to issue orders to the nuclear forces without the supreme commander in chief and the chief of the General Staff. Moreover, P. Grachev has previously often left Moscow during the absence of both B. Yeltsin and M. Kolesnikov.

In late February a secret directive to limit contacts with the press and minimize the number of events involving the participation of representatives of the mass media was circulated at the Defense Ministry.

There is information to the effect that on the whole the Armed Forces leadership can be divided into two groups: Boris Yeltsin's "loyalists," who have repeatedly expressed their commitment to the incumbent president, including P. Grachev and his first deputy, G. Kondratyev, and the "opposition" represented by General Staff Chief M. Kolesnikov and Deputy Defense Minister A. Kokoshin. It is noted that in late February-early March a member of the top brass, asked whether M. Kolesnikov might resign, stated in an unofficial conversation that "maybe you can speak with a greater degree of probability about the imminent resignation of P. Grachev, and it is still not clear which of the two (P. Grachev and M. Kolesnikov) feels more confident."

According to available information, Deputy Defense Minister A. Kokoshin maintains close ties with O. Soskovets; he regularly does various services to him, his

deputies, and relatives. A. Kotsubin and O. Soskovets meet virtually twice or three times a week.

On 15 March, from 1700 to 1800, P. Grachev met with V. Chernomyrdin. The subject of the meeting has not been disclosed. The very fact of its taking place has not been publicized.

However, on 16 March P. Grachev held a press conference at which he categorically denied rumors about the possibility of the military coming to power. P. Grachev stressed that, so long as he is defense minister, "there will be no military dictatorship. The Army is outside politics. The Army will intervene in events in the country only when it sees the start of civil war. The Army will not tolerate civil war."

Our Commentary

Let us think back to 16 August 1991. A similar document comes into the hands of the editorial office. In prospect there is the signing of the Union Treaty and stability that has more or less emerged in relations between the center and the republics. In the past is the serious—but not taken seriously enough—warning by then Foreign Minister Shevardnadze about an impending coup and subsequent dictatorship. Then came the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency].

But let us return to this strange but serious document. Although why is it strange?

Theory 1. Events since the release of the Lefortovo prisoners give grounds for believing that stormclouds are indeed gathering over the president. "Friends betray you," Napoleon said. In politics real friends are extremely rare. Yeltsin had only to start planning to go to Sochi on vacation for the long-standing rumors about the president's poor health to begin gathering strength. Let us note that the emphasis has increasingly been placed on "this matter". Ostensibly Yeltsin is not only quite a drinker, but cannot properly run the country. So he has gone to Sochi for further rehabilitation.

Meanwhile in Moscow there is a marked increase in activity and a large-scale militia operation is being held under the code name "Elbrus" to combat crime, primarily organized crime.

And on Tuesday, 15 March, as though by arrangement, at a press conference Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin resolutely declares a ruthless war on crime involving all available forces. Internal troop units wearing militia uniform are immediately additionally moved into Moscow, and cadets at Ministry of Internal Affairs educational establishments in the capital also take part in "Elbrus." But even "Elbrus" is not sufficient pretext for concentrating forces in the capital. However, the upcoming 17 March opposition rally devoted to the third anniversary of the all-union referendum on the unity of the Union provides weightier grounds for "considering" the security of Muscovites, especially as the Working Russia members and their supporters were meeting on Tsentralnaya Square, not far from the Kremlin, to sing the praises of the late "united and indivisible" state. In general, there were all too many militia in the city that week.

Echoing Mr. Yerin, boss of the entire Russian militia, Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko (once again probably a coincidence) suddenly began to speak about a state of emergency in view of the grave economic situation. Admittedly, he later made the proviso that he was referring merely to a state of emergency in the economy and finance.

Also probably by accident, the question of an economic state of emergency was discussed during the evening of 14 March at a meeting of the two parliamentary speakers Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin and Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. The State Duma chairman told INTERFAX of this. However, the premier expressed his attitude toward the question of a state of emergency only Friday 18 March. He was against a state of emergency. Probably by then the crisis in the economy was over. The rally on Tsentralnaya Square also passed off without excesses. Moreover, the document under discussion, so it transpired, was already passing through the hands of extremely influential and respected personalities.

Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin, the chairmen of both television companies—Oleg Poptsov (Russian TV) and Aleksandr Yakovlev ("Ostankino")—Sergey Filatov, leader of the President's Administration, Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin, and a number of other respected people had familiarized themselves with its contents.

Clearly sensing that something was wrong, LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who once again was left on the sidelines, dropped a bombshell at a meeting with bankers which also "happened" to coincide with the statements by Yerin and Shumeyko, saying that a repetition of 21 September last year was possible any day now. "All the signs are there, the symptoms are present, the papers and documents are ready, and the troops have long since been moved in for street fighting."

The behavior of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who cancelled his visit to the troops of the Leningrad Military District at the last moment, 14 March, is also perfectly explicable against the background of these events. Obviously Grachev had to be in Moscow at all costs at this time. His well known opponent in the Army Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov was returning to the capital 16 March. And, I repeat, an opposition rally was scheduled for 17 March. We think the story of Pavel Grachev's actions is as follows.

After the abortive attempt, if the document is to be believed, to oust Yeltsin the defense minister decided not merely "not to oppose" the aforementioned "group of state figures" but also to make his own contribution to the course of events. Neither the president (if the "conspirators" failed) nor the "conspirators" (if they were

victorious) would forgive him further fence-sitting like that of October last year. Probably the remark in the document by a member of the top brass forecasting the resignation of Grachev or Kolesnikov has a real foundation. "The Army will intervene in events in the country only when it sees the start of civil war," the military minister hurriedly declared at the press conference hastily convened 16 March. And, let us note, it is also possible to initiate a civil war. For instance, to instigate mass riots which, who knows, could begin at that very rally. And, judging by the mayor's statement, real preparations had been and were being made for them.

It is no accident that the main communist leaders were not seen at the rally. We have managed to establish from circles close to one of the special services that steps were taken to ensure that they themselves would not want to take part. The scenario for the state of emergency could have been more or less as follows. The crowd is whipped into a frenzy (the opposition leaders have seemingly become very expert at this) and then at a suitable moment there is an explosion in the midst of the crowd—then a fight and total mayhem. The OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachments] and internal troops positioned nearby move in. Mass riots are guaranteed. Then a state of emergency is declared in Moscow. Meanwhile the president is on vacation in Sochi. He is seriously ill and incapable of leading the country. Under the Constitution power passes to the premier. Nobody knows what the outcome would be of the presidential elections that must follow within three months. They may not take place at all. But for the moment that is all conjecture. What are the facts?

The reasons prompting the president's erstwhile supporters to seek methods of removing him from power are as follows, I think.

The military-industrial lobby, headed by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets and First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, has long quite openly expressed its dissatisfaction with the president. Yeltsin takes no particular notice of them and is squeezing funding for the military-industrial complex.

Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin is facing the clear threat of being left without the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] as a result of its radical reorganization, which may signal the end for this monster. In the very near future, so we are told by sources within the president's apparatus and the State-Legal Administration, the MVD will lose the department's most powerful structure—the internal troops. It is planned to use them as the basis for setting up a National Guard. On top of this, so we learned from the same sources, in the spirit of the fight against corruption the Moscow Main Internal Affairs Administration may be placed directly under the command of the president.

Chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov, in the event of the possible removal of Yeltsin from the presidency, would be the first and probably only contender for the post of military minister.

Theory 2. The president deliberately instigated the appearance of this "confidential" document in order to strengthen his grip on his team, which is getting out of control, and remove from the game troublesome individuals whom he dislikes.

But in both cases the reasons for the disagreements between Yeltsin and the "conspirators" remain as before: They no longer suit each other. Somebody has got to go. But who?

Theory 3. It is a blatant forgery. But who is responsible?

P.S. Painless prevention of a coup d'etat is possible only when notice is given of it before it begins. It is better to be wrong ahead of time than to reflect on the reasons behind a conspiracy as you count the number of victims after the event.

Stankevich, Glazyev React

LD2203163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] A leading member of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord in the State Duma Sergey Stankevich has described as a falsification the document reported in the media describing alleged plans of a coup. Boris Yeltsin would reportedly be removed from power as a result of the overthrow and his place would be taken by the current prime-minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

In a Tuesday interview with INTERFAX Stankevich said that the publications reflect "the intentions of some political forces to change the predominant political atmosphere because at the moment the focus of public attention has shifted to the question of national accord."

In his opinion this new backdrop does not find favor with forces that can survive only in conditions of acute confrontation and that want to "push the president to some extraordinary steps."

The purpose of such reports is "to damage certain politicians and provoke a clash with the president." According to Stankevich, the blow is primarily directed against Chernomyrdin "as the strongest political figure next to the president." Stankevich believes that a blow was also delivered against the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who has announced his intention to run for presidency in 1996.

At a Tuesday meeting with the press the chairman of the Duma committee for economic policy Sergey Glazyev (Democrat) described Version No.1 of a coup in Russia reported by the media as a crude provocation aimed at plunging the country into chaos.

According to him, "the rumors are being spread by the same people who are now trying to discredit the movement Accord for Russia." Together with representatives of several Communist and nationalist parties and movements he signed a statement on the formation of the movement last week.

In his opinion, the idea of the new movement is civic peace and harmony, the unification of all constructive forces, including the opposition. "Everything that separates people in different parties is insignificant compared to the current danger to our country," Glazyev stressed.

Rutskoy Comments

LD2203163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has described as false allegations of a brewing coup following the publication of an anonymous newspaper report outlining such a scenario. He said the situation was being dramatized to divert public attention.

Rutskoy spoke of the Soviet Communist Party being used as bogey three years ago and the Soviets in the second half of 1992. Searches are now under way for someone to take the blame after the bombing of the previous parliament, he said adding that no one had ever plotted a coup because one had already been pulled off.

Rutskoy, who shaved off a beard he had grown while in prison on charges of organizing last October's rioting in Moscow, was speaking to reporters while attending an agricultural fair in Moscow.

Although he described the current situation as unpredictable, Rutskoy said he did not want any repeat of what happened last October. "I had enough time for a rethink and to come to some conclusions", he said.

Rutskoy believes the situation can still be redressed if the control of reforms is regained, priorities and incentives are set and laws strictly observed. "That must be the basis of today's policies", he said. Although he agreed that "any solution to vital problems depends on internal stability", Rutskoy said it was important to know who exactly would be party to a proposed civil peace pact. "Should there be any compromise with those who plundered and ruined the country and bombed the parliament? If so, what sort of compromise and for which purpose?", he asked.

Asked which of the three he considered himself to be - president vice president or former vice president, Rutskoy said he had always believed himself to be citizen first. "If the coup was lawful, then I am former vice president. If it was unlawful which it was because of being unconstitutional, then I am vice president", he said.

Rutskoy described Acting Prosecutor General Alexey Ilyushenko as "a swindler who forged documents and filed a false report" about his involvement in financial irregularities. He said Ilyushenko must be put behind bars.

On his own political future, Rutskoy said it was early days yet to speak about it. Asked if he would run for presidency, he said "let us wait until presidential elections if there are any". And he added "after all, there must be someone to nominate my candidacy".

Rutskoy Not Ready for Civic Accord

LD2203175694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Today's appearance by Aleksandr Rutskoy at the All-Russian Exhibition Center partly satisfied the old interest of journalists in the person of the ex-vice president. He commented on the rumors of a coup in preparation in his own way:

[Begin recording] [Rutskoy] The Supreme Soviet got in the way so they destroyed it, they shot up the parliament. Now something else has to get in the way. But who? What? You have to distract people's attention. Nobody was ever even dreaming of any coups. The coup has already happened, the coup d'etat has already happened in this state. So what coups are there to talk about?

[Unidentified correspondent] The idea of civic accord is not an undisputed one for Aleksandr Vladimirovich.

[Rutskoy] Agree with who? With those who plundered the state and destroyed it? With those who shot up the parliament? You want me to agree with them? [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 22 March carries the following voice recording of Rutskoy at the Russian Exhibition, answering reporters' questions: "Industrial instability, rocking the boat, playing games, agreements, money-centrism—all of this will end badly. One cannot play games with laws. Laws exist to be fulfilled. When we learn to obey the laws we shall live well. Otherwise there is no democracy, there is anarchy."]

Filatov Sees 'Links'

LD2203181394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1645 GMT on 22 March carries the "Filatov Explains" program consisting of a 10-minute recorded interview with Sergey Filatov, head of the president's administration, with an unnamed interviewer. Filatov says that 81 decrees and instructions have been signed by the president over the past week. He elaborates on three of these—the decree of 17 March on an increase in compensation payments for caregivers, the draft law on additions to the law on pensions, and the decree on citizenship status.

The interviewer then asks the "question of the week" on media reports of a "coup d'etat" during the president's vacation and speculation on his health. Filatov says he doesn't regard these matters separately but sees them as links in a chain. It all began with the amnesty and the build-up of an opposition to the president and his policies. "This became particularly manifest this week

by a whole number of factors after the president first presented his message on strengthening the state, and especially after the president came out with his major initiative—one that we have been waiting for a long time—the creation of civic accord, on the basis of which we would be able to embark clearly on normal economic reforms. Against the background of all this it was clearly necessary for some people to show their particular stand, their particular position, and I don't believe that this happened by chance."

Asked about Yeltsin's health, Filatov replies: "Quite normal. I have already said that I think that these stores are not by chance. Reports have been coming in that the president has been up in a helicopter, and one could have shown him playing tennis, but, unfortunately, the weather stepped in and prevented it."

Regarding the scenario of an alleged plot, Filatov says that some kind of new structure of a coalition, also calling for accord, is apparently being created, but there cannot be two "accords" in society. "If you look at it, then I think all of this has been organized by one center, one group—an opposition group of course—and one can see a certain attempt to create an unpleasant atmosphere of fear and mistrust, and I think one cannot love one's people very much to bring them to such a situation."

The interviewer asks Filatov if media talk about possible early elections is all part of the same chain. Filatov replies that some sociologists are saying that this would be the best time for Rutskoy to become president. Filatov does not think that Rutskoy is ready to become head of state.

CI Service Knew of Coup

LD2203194794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The sensation of the day was an Interfax report from the public relations center of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK]. It turns out the FSK had information about the fact that a so-called version of a coup under preparation in Russia would be published in a range of newspapers. Incidentally, the fullest version of the version was published today in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Further, the FSK told the Russian leadership about it in advance. The FSK, together with the Interior Ministry and the Procuracy-General, are looking for those who set up this provocation.

IZVESTIYA Assessment

PM2203145594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Sergey Chugayev article: "Yet Again No Coup d'Etat Took Place in Russia"]

[Text] The beginning of this week was marked by panic which arose in Moscow political circles because of a largely ordinary event: announcements about the prime minister's trip to Sochi. With unusual speed, and not without help from certain news agencies, rumors that the president's state of health had deteriorated and that V. Chernomyrdin probably went to the Black Sea coast to seize power in the country started to circulate in the capital.

Although a little later the president's administration and the government apparatus put out explanations to the effect that everything is in order as regards the president's health, while the need for Chernomyrdin's trip to Sochi was prompted by the fact that the president has to sign an amended draft federal budget to enable the State Duma to begin its discussion as soon as possible, Monday morning passed off fairly nervously in many of the capital's political lobbies and corridors of power.

Meanwhile, rumors of an imminent coup d'etat again started to circulate in political circles last week. Matters have reached a point whereby a coup scenario has been actively circulated in the State Duma and published in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA. Thus, there is every reason to believe that last week's main event was that no coup took place in our country.

Of course, the appearance of the latest putsch scenario should be regarded as nothing but a common political provocation, most likely undertaken with the aim of causing a split in the executive branch's ranks. But we cannot fail to notice a certain ordinariness in the situation. In several recent years, starting in approximately 1988, the country has regularly been rocked every few months by rumors of imminent coups and putsches. Whereas there have been only two real putsches—in August 1991 and October 1993. Therefore we cannot fail to ask ourselves: Why does the putsch problem arise so persistently over and over again? Moreover, it arises in Moscow at the highest echelons of federal power, at the same time as the rest of Russia quietly lives its own life.

Recent observations of the dynamics of the development of relations in the federal power system allow the detection of an obvious regularity: Fuss and nervousness always begin at the moment when the president is either absent or not engaged in energetic political activity. The reason for this regularity is no mystery: The Russian state structure's stability does not rely on democratic institutions or on a balance between the branches. The current regime's weakness lies in the fact that it has gotten stuck halfway between totalitarianism and democracy (or the other way round). Under this regime the state of all democratic institutions depends on the actions (or inaction) and the state of health of one person—the president. When applied to Third World countries an analogous situation is customarily called a personal power regime.

We are witnessing a paradox: A strong executive branch ensures stability in the state given an opposition parliament, which cannot upset this stability. But at the same time the executive branch itself, namely the federal executive branch, is starting to discover signs of its own unstable state.

It is no longer a secret to anyone that the president, especially in recent months, has been "in the shadows" much more often than is warranted by the situation existing in the country. Discussion of the reasons for this remains a taboo topic for the public and mass media. Such discussions have been declared unpatriotic. Whereas extremely vigorous debates about this are being conducted in various corridors of federal power. The president has only to provide just a little extra fuel for these conversations (by going on leave, for example) for a fuss to start in political lobbies and corridors of power and the level of nervousness to reach the highest reading.

We have had an opportunity to observe all this during the last week. Deputy V. Isakov's apparently quite unexpected statement about the possibility of electing the president by a kind of Assembly of the Land was immediately followed by a statement from the opposite flank. M. Poltoranin proposed that presidential and parliamentary elections be postponed until 1998. Almost simultaneously, as if on command, two movements—"The Realists" and "Accord for Russia's Sake"—were established in Moscow. In actual fact they are preelection blocs. A noteworthy detail is that the blocs' policy statements say nothing about participation in the election campaign now under way for local organs of power, although much is said about presidential and parliamentary elections. It is logical to ask why. Because elections to federal organs of power are not due to take place for another two years. At last the latest putsch scenario has appeared.

The evolving situation is surprisingly similar to that which arose in Russia at the beginning of last summer. Then, let us recall, all political forces threw themselves into preparing for early parliamentary elections. This was at a time when both the Supreme Soviet and the Congress, which were naturally against these elections, were functioning. A constitution preventing the holding of them was in force. In short, at that time early parliamentary elections objectively seemed an unrealistic possibility. BUT THEY TOOK PLACE! True, the route toward them lay through the bloody events of September-October. It is hard to say how exactly the development of the current situation will repeat last year's situation. There are many similarities. But besides this there is one really striking fact: The president's edict on early presidential elections on 12 June 1994 is in force. It is all the more surprising that the president rescinded dozens of laws and edicts after the new constitution was adopted. But not this edict.

It can be assumed that the ruling nomenklatura and leading politicians are perfectly well aware of this. Their behavior gives strong grounds for concluding that their actions are based on the realistic possibility of an early presidential election. It cannot be ruled out here that they are banking on the fact that this election will take place in the not too distant future. Although nobody is saying this openly.

The actual prospect of an early presidential election makes the ruling nomenklatura extremely nervous and compels it to commit acts which are not always well thought-out. Acts, for instance, like the statements on the possibility of canceling or postponing the general presidential election. Here, voluntarily or involuntarily, Poltoranin and Isakov presented a united front in support of the ruling nomenklatura, which is extremely alarmed by the possibility of a politician like V. Zhirinovskiy winning the election, because this would inevitably bring in its wake the replacement of the nomenklatura's bosses. For his part Zhirinovskiy—like, incidentally, other political leaders—is strengthening his party ranks with increasing vigor. The appearance of the putsch scenario does not look accidental either. The possibility of an attempt to solve the problem by means of force should apparently not be discounted.

However, while a president who has demonstrated, contrary to all rumors, that he is healthy, energetic, and completely capable is in power, we should most probably not fear such a scenario of the development of events. There are two mutually complementary methods of avoiding the distinct possibility of a serious political crisis. Above all the president should obviously make maximum effective use of the assets he has available thanks to the new constitution, primarily a strong executive branch, in order to stabilize the situation in the economy. At the same time, although it is an extremely difficult task, the state's democratic structure must be strengthened. Within the framework in which the existing constitution allows this to be done. Specifically, a Law on the Constitutional Court must be adopted as soon as possible and all participants in the political game forced to fulfill all constitutional provisions unconditionally and strictly. Strong presidential power is without any doubt capable of stabilizing the economy. But a strong state, which everybody is talking about at the moment, which does not have support in a developed civic society will always be threatened by palace coups. Therefore, once stability in the economy has been achieved there must be further constitutional improvements in the area of the democratic state structure and in the direction of strengthening the representative branch and achieving a balance between the branches, which will indicate the strengthening of ties between the state and civic society. But in conditions of economic instability (and three months' experience of the State Duma's activity proves this convincingly) a weakening of the executive branch in favor of the representative branch will most likely lead to anarchy and then to seizure of power.

By taking these steps the president could lead the country to the next presidential election and lay the foundation for a new Russian democratic tradition: the legitimate primacy of state power.

Otherwise, if the trend of preserving the situation (and consequently preserving the democratic transformations and economic reforms) is maintained, there will be a permanent threat that the country will roll backwards.

Just like the threat that a most acute political crisis will arise. For example, in the event that the election is won by a candidate unacceptable to the highest political and state nomenklatura, events could develop on the pattern of those which took place in Algeria two years ago. When Islamic fundamentalists won the parliamentary elections and the ruling regime annulled the election results and declared a state of emergency in the country. The state of emergency in Algeria is still in force.

'Realists' Club Formed 'To Resolve' Country's Problems

PM2203142194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 2

["Own Information" report: "'Realists' Want To Pool Efforts To Resolve the Country's Problems. They Have Set Up Their Own Club for This"]

[Text] "Transformations meeting the interests of society are possible only with nationwide accord based on a clear understanding of the aims, with a quest for ways to achieve them, and, most importantly, with the determination of the price which the country and its people will agree to pay for reforms, without running the risk of facing a national catastrophe," the "Statement on the Creation and Aims of the 'Realists' Club" states. The club was established in Moscow on 14 March. The board of the new organization includes Aleksandr Vladislavlev, first vice president of the RUIE [Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs]; Valeriy Neverov, president of the "Germes" Concern; State Duma Deputy Yekaterina Lakhova; Yuriy Petrov, chairman of the State Investment Corporation; Nikolay Fedorov, president of the Chuvash Republic; Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of the FITUR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia]; and a number of other well-known politicians, regional leaders, entrepreneurs, and arts figures who adhere to the concept of political realism. Supporting the quest for a mechanism to formulate accord "for the sake of supreme national interests," they proposed convening a Russian congress "For Civil Accord in the Name of Russia's Revival" to adopt the appropriate document. The main aim of the "Realists" Club has been proclaimed as pooling efforts to resolve the problems facing the country and promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between political and public forces.

The creation of the "Realists" Political Club may be regarded as one more response from society's political elite to the president's initiative with regard to signing the Memorandum on Civil Peace. In a broader context this event may also be defined as a regrouping of society's "summit" forces in the search for a response to the political, social, and spiritual-moral realities of life today. Time will show what kind of response these initiatives will elicit—not only in the political establishment but also in broad sections of the population.

Composition of the "Realists" Club Board

1. Aleksandr Semenovich Belyakov, head of Leningrad Oblast Administration, government of Leningrad Oblast (governor of the oblast—chairman of the government)
2. Aleksandr Pavlovich Vladislavlev, first vice president of the RUIE
3. Aleksandr Viktorovich Yermish'in, chairman of the Board of Directors and general director of Saratov Aviation Plant
4. Yekaterina Filippovna Lakhova, deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly and leader of the "Women of Russia" faction
5. Andrey Sergeyevich Mikhalkov-Konchalovskiy, movie director
6. Viktor Ivanovich Merezhko, screenwriter
7. Valeriy Ivanovich Neverov, president of the "Germes" Concern and chairman of its Board of Directors
8. Gennadiy Vasilyevich Osipov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociopolitical Research
9. Yuriy Vladimirovich Petrov, chairman of the State Investment Corporation
10. Gennadiy Yuryevich Semigin, Business Circles Congress
11. Eduard Mikhaylovich Sagalayev
12. Yuriy Alekseyevich Spiridonov, chairman of the Komi Republic Supreme Council
13. Yegor Semenovich Stroyev, head of Orel Oblast Administration
14. Nikolay Vasilyevich Fedorov, president of the Chuvash Republic
15. Mikhail Viktorovich Shmakov, chairman of the FITUR.

Administration Reacts to 'Accord for Russia' Group

PM2303095594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed "At the President's Administration" report: "Sincerity of Intentions Must Be Judged by Actions"]

[Text] The Russian Federation President's Administration is keeping a close watch on reactions to Boris Yeltsin's call for civil peace and accord in the state and in society.

As is known, on 10 March the president met in the Kremlin with representatives of Russian state, public, and business circles, and the meeting participants said they agreed to the idea of preparing and signing an Agreement on Civil Peace in Russia. They invited political leaders, public figures, and citizens of Russia wanting to contribute to the preparation of the Agreement on Civil Peace to join in the work.

On 18 March, a number of newspapers published an appeal by a group of figures announcing the creation of an association that would be called "Accord for Russia." The appeal was signed by several people who are known for their implacable stance vis-a-vis the president and his

policy of late. They include several leaders of communist and "national patriotic" organizations, as well as a Constitutional Court judge, whose functions basically preclude participation in political organizations.

The President's Administration expects the new association to make a specific contribution to the preparation of the Agreement on Civil Peace in Russia and then to its practical implementation. It is by these actions that society will judge the sincerity of the intentions of the appeal's authors. This was announced by the Russian Federation president's press service.

Yeltsin To 'Cut Short' Holiday on 26 March

LD2203221694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin plans to attend the water sports festival in Moscow. Competitions will be held in four swimming pools of the Olimpiyskiy sports complex on 26 March. It was stated at a news conference that Boris Yeltsin promised to cut short his brief holiday by two days and come for the festivities. Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and other honored guests are also planning to attend the festivities at the Olimpiyskiy complex.

Yeltsin Message to Virgin Land Developers Conference

LD2803104294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] An international scientific and practical conference devoted to the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the development of virgin and fallow lands is taking place in Barnaul today. In his message to its participants and all virgin land developers, Boris Yeltsin emphasized in particular that the experience of the development of the virgin lands was a convincing testimony of the fact that if efforts are united, success is guaranteed in even the most difficult of undertakings. This experience, Yeltsin thinks, is especially valuable at present. It is only by acting together and closely interacting and cooperating in all spheres that the crisis can be surmounted faster and the difficult problems of the Commonwealth countries resolved, notes the president.

Court of Appeal Warns NOVYY VZGLYAD Editor

PM2103110794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 94 p 1

[Report from roundup of PRAVDA and ITAR-TASS reports: "Court of Appeal in Operation"]

[Text] At a routine session the Russian Federation president's court of appeal examined and assessed several items published by the weekly NOVYY VZGLYAD which grossly violating legal and universally recognized ethical norms. NOVYY VZGLYAD chief editor Ye. Dodolev was issued with a warning. The court of appeal believes that there are every grounds for warning the chief editor that NOVYY VZGLYAD may cease publication. The court of appeal has sent its materials to the Russian Federation Committee for the Press—as the registering organ—to take the steps stipulated by the law. A warning has also been issued to MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA chief editor Sh. Muladzhanov since the court of appeal has established that the MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA editorial office is promoting the production, dissemination, and advertising of NOVYY VZGLYAD.

Economic Issues

Agriculture Minister Calls For Producer Protections

LD2203134794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—"In the conditions of mass food intervention, the government was forced to issue an order raising customs duties on certain categories of imported foodstuffs in order to protect (domestic) agricultural producers", Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha told a news conference on Tuesday.

The vice-premier cited numerous facts proving to great difficulties with the sale of Russian-made products in the country's major industrial centres. Thus, about 70 per cent of dairy and meat products come to the Moscow and St. Petersburg markets from abroad, while domestic commodity producers are actually barred from these markets. According to Zaveryukha, the reason lying behind this in that certain structures find it more profitable to do business with foreign suppliers than Russian ones.

The deputy prime minister promised that "this move will not entail a jump in retail prices for foodstuffs. The new rates of import duties are to reduce profits of importing organizations rather than send prices up", he emphasized.

Zaveryukha told reporters that "certain circles objected to this order, they were openly lobbying against it and continue lobbying for its cancellation". But the government, specifically Zaveryukha himself, stand up for support of agricultural producers in all spheres, including in the financial one.

"I have been instructed to investigate into the causes of over- 20-day delay in credits extended by the government to assist rural areas with the spring sowing campaign", the deputy prime minister reported. He believes such a delay amounts to disruption of the sowing campaign and "will result in the loss of 7-8 million tons of grain this year".

And yet, even with this situation taken into account, Russia will have enough basic foodstuffs this year, largely made by domestic producers, Zaveryukha said.

Inflation Slows, Poverty Figures Drop in February

PM2803092394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 1

[Yuriy Rytov report: "Poverty Is No Longer the Same. In January, 52.6 Million People Were Below the Poverty Line, in February 24.8 Million"]

[Text] There is hardly any need to demonstrate that, of all the negative consequences of the reform, the most painful is the truly calamitous situation in which millions of our indigent fellow citizens find themselves. The sentimental pictures which have flashed on our television screens—charity dinners and charity gifts, clearly pursuing publicity purposes—have been quite unable to rectify the situation, merely underlining the depth of the people's sorrow.

In January, 35.4 percent of the population had an income below the living wage. Let us call things by their proper names: More than one-third of our fellow citizens were doomed to a slow extinction.

But then the situation changed materially in February, when 16.7 percent of citizens remained below the poverty line. The little word "only" is clearly inappropriate here. It is equally inappropriate to be moved by the changes that have occurred. Because 24.8 million hapless citizens represent, all the same, a very large number, monstrously large! Therefore the words used to form the headline must be perceived with a certain degree of irony.

And yet the cited facts require careful analysis. They attest that Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet has replaced the "declaration of intentions" with practical steps aimed at giving social protection to needy sections of the population. It is very important to investigate the mechanism of such actions.

What, then, happened?

First, the difference in the wages that were increased as of 1 December last year and as of 1 January this year for working people in the budget-funded sphere and in management organs was paid in February. The payment was increased by the amount of the compensation relating to pensions.

Second, the rate of inflation slowed down sharply in February and stood at 9.9 percent. The increase in wages (10 percent) overtook inflation probably for the first time.

Third, owing to the low rate of inflation, there was an insignificant change in the actual size of the living wage: 51,360 rubles [R] in January, R56,574 in February.

A natural question arises: How stable is the trend which has become apparent? First of all, it should be said that provision has already been made for a number of protective measures in the social sphere. Thus, as of 1 February it is proposed to increase compensation for pensioners from R11,700 to R20,000, and to R29,600 as of 1 May.

But this, of course, is not the main point. Everything depends on the limit to which the level of inflation can be kept. This is primarily dependent on the republic budget deficit, which is to be compensated for to a considerable degree by money emission. The government intends to keep the budget deficit within quite a rigid framework—approximately 9 percent of GDP. This would also ensure a moderate rate of inflation.

The final fate of the budget is not yet known, however. At the end of last week Viktor Chernomyrdin signed its draft and sent the document to the president and the State Duma. It can only be hoped that its clauses of expenditure will not swell up under pressure from various lobbyist groupings.

In any case it is gratifying that the cabinet's social policy has occupied priority positions not in words but in actual fact.

Early March Food Price Movements Monitored

PM2303110994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Mar 94 First Edition p 3

[Review under the heading "March 5-13 [figures as published]: The Week's Prices" based on "Materials of the Russian Federation Government's Center for Economic Conditions": "Do Not Add Salt to My Wounds. That Pleasure is Becoming Too Costly."]

[Excerpts] The Russian Federation Government's Center for Economic Conditions reports that, according to figures from the state statistical organs, inflation was 1.8 percent over the past week.

Foodstuffs became 1.7 percent more expensive, nonfood goods rose by 3.1 percent, and paid services to the population rose by 3.5 percent. The greatest increase in consumer prices was registered in the East Siberian and Urals economic regions. Inflation was lowest in the Volga-Vyatka region at 1.5 percent. In Moscow prices rose by 1.9 percent while in St. Petersburg they rose 2.6 percent. [passage omitted]

The average cost of a range of 19 essential foodstuffs on 15 March was 43,000 rubles [R] calculated per month. This represents a rise of 1.8 percent over the week, 4.2 percent since the beginning of the month, and 40 percent since the beginning of the year. In organized trade prices, this range of products cost R31,400 whereas in nonorganized trade it cost R55,900. [passage omitted]

Edict on Savings Depositors' Compensation Scored

PM2203131194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "It Seems That There Will Be No Rest Rebate for Savings Bank Investors"]

[Text] The threefold compensation for Savings Bank accounts held on 1 January 1992, which is being carried out in accordance with the Russian president's edict, is being viewed by many people as a token gesture which will not cover the losses due to inflation. However, the document envisaged other benefits for investors.

In particular the edict contains recommendations to local executive organs "to grant to individuals in receipt of one-off compensation payments the right to use those funds to pay for municipal and housing services at the tariffs (rates) in force at 1 November 1993 on condition that they transfer the entire amount of compensation into a separate interest-free deposit account during January 1994." Bearing in mind the rapid rise in prices for housing and municipal services, of course, this measure could considerably stifle the discontent at the token compensation. But this measure is not being fulfilled yet in any of the Russian regions.

The point, of course, is not that, according to the edict, money should have been paid into the special deposit account back in January. The beginning of the compensation was delayed so the deadline for the transfer of the funds could have been postponed, too. So there are no problems there. Incidentally, the letter of instruction on how the payment for municipal and housing services from the special account is to be made in practice was not sent out by the leadership of the Savings Bank to its branches until March.

A far more serious problem, however, is the fact that the provision of the edict on the payment for services at a reduced rate is recommendatory in character. The final word here rests with the local authorities. And they are in no hurry to adopt the appropriate decision.

Nor has such a decision been made in Moscow. Furthermore, a senior official from the Moscow government has stated that it is hardly likely to be adopted at all. The payment of municipal and housing services at reduced rates will hit the capital's budget.

I think that in this instance what we are seeing is a classic example of administrative sleight of hand in which nothing is decided but the semblance of the solution of a problem is created.

The question, then, is whether the local authorities have the money to introduce extra concessions or not. The answer is no. In that case why should the local authorities be held accountable for the fact that the holdings of Savings Bank investors have lost value?

Military & Space Issues

Grachev on Strengthening Air Defense Forces

LD2203203294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, has denied reports of a 50 percent reduction in the country's air defense forces. The minister said that the present air defense structure would not only be maintained but additionally strengthened with fighter aircraft. In the development of the air defense forces, priority will be given to modern aircraft and missiles and radio-technical means of reconnaissance.

Deputy Defense Minister on Army Reform's Next Phase

PM2203164594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, by Colonel Nikolay Poroskov under the "Topical Subject" rubric; date, place not given: "Second Stage of Reform: What Lies in Store for the Army. Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Answers KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Questions"]

[Text] The first stage in the reform of the Army and Navy, during which the main organizational measures to create the Russian Armed Forces proper, ensure the reliable command and control of the troops, and shape a normative-legal base for their activity were carried out has come to an end. What does the future hold for the Armed Forces? Our correspondent's conversation with Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev began with this question.

[Kondratyev] The second stage (1993-1995) will see the continuation of the work to create the main groups of troops (forces) and a military infrastructure. This includes provision for the creation of mobile forces capable of providing a rapid response to threats to Russia's security from wherever they may come. This is enshrined in the new military doctrine. The provisions of this doctrine will be the basis of the reform strategy during the third stage (post-1995), during which the Russian Armed Forces will undergo in-depth transformations to determine what they will be like in the 21st century. The Armed Forces will be a relatively small, but powerful and mobile army, materially secure, equipped with the most effective arms and military hardware systems, capable of protecting Russia against outside encroachments and being a guarantor of peace and stability in the country. That is the first point.

Second, they will be the army of a democratic state, having fundamentally different relations with society and state and command respect and prestige among the people.

Third, they will be an important tool of national policy, preserving all the best traditions of their predecessors, everything relating to the performance of exclusively defensive tasks.

These three positions effectively reflect the main purpose of the process of reform of the Russian Armed Forces currently under way.

[Poroskov] As you know, the reforms being implemented are checked out during strategic drills and regional command-staff exercises of which there were a plethora last year. A series of experiments is also being carried out. The trial switch—using the Moscow Military District as a basis—to the territorial principle of rear services support is one of these. What is the essence of this experiment?

[Kondratyev] We are seeking ways of improving the whole system of rear services support, and the effectiveness of the work of rear services structures is being practically verified amid the transition to market relations. To this end early last year rear services support staff centers were set up for the troops regardless of the branch of the Armed Forces to which they are affiliated. Over the past year they have proved their viability and effectiveness. Centers of this kind will probably also be set up in the Kaliningrad special area and in the Far East Military District. And this year the Moscow Military District has decided to fully switch to the territorial system of support.

[Poroskov] Now a word about another experiment—the Leningrad, North Caucasus, and Transbaykal Military Districts are switching to the zonal-territorial principle of organizing air defense, assigning responsibility for it to the commanders of the military districts' troops. Is that not turning back the clock, a return to the so-called "Ogarkov" principle that was later rejected?

[Kondratyev] Air defense formations were indeed disbanded in the period 1977-1980 at the suggestion of N.V. Ogarkov, then chief of the General Staff, and their forces and facilities transferred to the jurisdiction of military district commanders. This organization's main shortcoming was its lack of unified responsibility for the air defense of the country and of the Armed Forces. Unity both as regards the organization and the combat use of air defense forces and facilities was violated. And in 1986 we switched to the current system.

In the course of military reform it is planned to make air defense an integral part of Russia's unified aerospace defense system [ADS]. The air defense organization is based on the territorial principle—not cooperation between associations of air defense troops and the air defense troops and forces of military districts, the Air Force, and Navy as happened before, but unified command and control of these forces in air defense zones and regions. In accordance with a unified concept and plan. The plan is to have a large mobile reserve of air defense forces in central regions of the country—in order to promptly step up efforts in crisis situations. Thus, this is not a reversion, as you put it, to the "Ogarkov" principle, but the creation of an ADS on a new footing. The experiment is being conducted to prevent mistakes when this system is set up.

[Poroskov] The Russian president's edict on the organization of aerospace defense was the basis of the reform and development of the Air Defense Forces. What made it necessary to create aerospace defense?

[Kondratyev] Analysis of the experience of recent wars and conflicts, including the Gulf War, shows that wide-ranging massive use of offensive aerospace weapons is assigned the main role in ensuring the success of a military campaign. Ground forces do not embark on active operations unless these weapons have engaged the opposing grouping.

The emphasis is obviously shifting toward the creation and use of unmanned, high-precision, low-signature offensive aerospace weapons that can operate from space and the air at the same time. The fact that the combat potential of the whole arsenal of these weapons is being constantly enhanced is convincing evidence that the bulk of the initial phase of an act of aggression will be determined by fierce air and space warfare. So what is needed is a well-organized unified ADS system for the country and the Armed Forces.

The General Staff has enlisted the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces, as well as research organizations under the Defense Ministry and other ministries and departments, in formulating a concept for the organization of Russia's aerospace defense. The latter does not just deter the enemy, which is fully in keeping with the essence of our military doctrine. The supreme effectiveness of this system provides a material foundation for achieving the objectives of strategic troop deployment and the Russian Armed Forces' first strategic operations.

The ADS is in practice based on the existing air defense system. That is why the Air Defense Forces are the basis for the creation of this system. What is more, the ADS must comprise the forces and facilities of other branches of the Armed Forces that are capable of combating offensive aerospace weapons present and future and be based on the comprehensive use of aerospace reconnaissance, missile space and air defense of branches of the Armed Forces, and these forces' combat command and control systems.

[Poroskov] Will questions of a unified information system be examined when the ADS is set up regardless of departmental jurisdiction?

[Kondratyev] The plan is to create an aerospace reconnaissance system based on the reconnaissance information assets of all branches of the Armed Forces and other Russian ministries (in particular the federal reconnaissance and aerospace surveillance system) capable of detecting offensive aerospace weapons and at the same time forming an integral part of the overall early-warning system. Thus, all forces within the ADS will receive unified information, and on a real time basis, moreover.

We are also planning to pursue a unified technical policy and unify the arsenal based on one customer for aerospace defense arms and hardware and one designer for the command and control system.

[Poroskov] You have extensive plans and the military are to implement them. But, Georgiy Grigoryevich, we know that there is a degree of strain in the mental condition of the personnel and in their morale: The military legislation package is not fully operational, payment of wages is held up, and the housing question is an acute one.... The state owes the Moscow Air Defense District for instance over 15 billion rubles. What is being done to solve these problems?

[Kondratyev] The Defense Ministry is working with the government to resolve the Army's and Navy's urgent problems. The government recently examined the main problems of social policy in the sphere of defense organizational development for 1994. I think that the aim of this policy is to formulate a reliable mechanism for the implementation of the decisions that have already been adopted. Today we do not lack programs and plans for the social protection of servicemen and members of their family. But we must carry out our previous plans. And for that we need the appropriate structures at federal and regional levels as well as financial and material resources.

[Poroskov] There are signs of a positive trend in the Defense Ministry's actions—"moving" garrisons from "godforsaken holes" closer to cultural centers. "But won't this weaken, figuratively speaking, the defense chain on the country's borders?

[Kondratyev] The minister and the Defense Ministry Collegium have decided, where possible and mindful of operational assignments, to station units and formations near cities and urban-type settlements. This should not be understood literally as massing troops in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other oblast centers or Russian republic capitals. The defense minister has set the task of creating normal living conditions for servicemen's families, ensuring that children can go to school and kindergarten and do not have to travel 15-30 km as often happens. Servicemen will be able to go to cultural centers and the stores, live in apartments with all modern conveniences, etc. After all, officers, warrant officers, and contract personnel are the same as our citizens and should be provided with everything they need for a normal life. Naturally, then they will give back more during their service.

I have already pointed out that formations and units will be sited with consideration for their operational mission because defense of the borders will not be weakened. What is more, we have set about creating mobile forces which are capable of massing rapidly in areas where a threat to Russia's security arises.

Things are trickier with the Air Defense Forces: They are on constant readiness, they perform alert duty to guard Russia's air borders. That is why we will not be able to redeploy many units and subunits—particularly in the radiotechnical forces—that are stationed on islands in the Arctic Circle, etc. in major population centers because that would indeed weaken defense. But there is also a solution to this—camps can be set up near population centers and alert duty carried out by the so-called "tour of duty method." Duty crews will be taken by helicopter or surface transport to their post for 10-15 days and their families will live in normal conditions.

[Poroskov] Contract personnel could probably particularly prove their worth here. But they by no means arrive as ready-made specialists. Are there plans to set up training subunits for them or will training take different forms?

[Kondratyev] Virtually all volunteers undergo special training programs lasting 2-5 months at training units, centers, schools, and crews, or directly in their subunits. Contract servicemen receive a qualification on the job and perfect their military proficiency during military training sessions held in formations and units and training courses at central and district level.

In the future given the increase in the number of servicemen admitted for contract service and in order to provide training in the most complex military specialisms there may be a move to create regional training centers that offer up to 10 months' training in multiple specialisms.

[Poroskov] One last question: Georgiy Grigoryevich, you have left your Turkestan District comrades in arms outside Russia and you yourself admit that your heart bleeds for them. Most officers who have ended up in national armies by the will of fate want to return to the Russian Army and spend their leave trying to find themselves a job, but they are by no means always successful. So how can a Russian officer return to his own army?

[Kondratyev] This is a very sensitive problem. Barring Ukraine and Belorussia [Belarus], the newly-formed national armies in nearby foreign countries have virtually no officers. The leadership of these states is trying to keep Russian officers, sometimes by not very civilized means. Regrettably, even in those states with which Russia has agreements on these matters and which have signed the Collective Security Treaty, officers feel uncomfortable, to put it mildly. When they leave they are prohibited from privatizing and selling their apartments, taking their cars and personal possessions with them, and they pay heavy duties. You know about the death of our officers in Georgia and Ukraine. It is very hard to hear and talk about this. Regrettably, our Foreign Ministry is not providing any clear-cut detail on this issue. I am not the only one whose heart bleeds for them—there is also the defense minister as well as all commanders and commanders in chief. But we will try to help them and we are helping them. Those who have firmly decided to serve in the Russian Army are gradually taking up posts there. But let those who have sworn an oath to another state serve the people whose oath they have sworn. We have no room for them.

In order to return home an officer must put in a formal request which will be sent to the Russian Armed Forces Main Cadres Directorate. The officer will be sent to his post once his assignment has been agreed and decided.

We expect the Russian Armed Forces to fully accord with the new tasks as laid down by the basic provisions of our military doctrine when carrying out our ideas.

Details of Progress M-22 Launch

LD2203181194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By non-staff ITAR-TASS correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—The Russian cargo spaceship "Progress M-22" was launched at 7:54 a.m. Moscow time (4:54 a.m. GMT) on Tuesday. The unmanned spaceship is to deliver disposable materials and various cargoes to the russian manned orbital station "Mir". The "Progress M-22" was put into orbit with the following parameters:

- period of revolution—90.2 minutes;
- orbital inclination—51.7 degrees;
- maximum distance from the earth's surface—335 kilometers;
- minimum distance from the earth's surface—260 kilometers;

According to a spokesman for the press center of the aerospace military forces, the docking of the launched cargo spaceship with the orbital manned complex "Mir" is planned for 9:39 a.m. on March 24.

The start of the cargo spaceship originally scheduled for March 19, was delayed for three days due to heavy snowfalls in the area of the launching site. The snow drifts were up to six meters high, a spokesman for the flight control center told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday adding that the fire which occurred at the Baykonur cosmodrome on March 7 had nothing to do with the delay of the launch. The cargo spaceship "Progress M-22" has become the 1101st space object launched into orbit from the Baykonur cosmodrome since the beginning of the space era—October 4, 1957.

Regional Affairs

Reaction to Vladivostok Mayor's Ouster

944F0461B Vladivostok UTRO ROSSII in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by T. Smirnova: "The Law in Camouflage Fatigues"]

[Text] **A naive people, until recently we consoled ourselves: This is it; we have exhausted, through our grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, a full measure of wars and revolutions, night searches and cattle boxcars. We played hide-and-seek with ourselves: A generation without wars, we will certainly sail into a quiet old age, will tend to our grandchildren and contemplate eternity. Alas, one cannot slide into history!**

The mayoralty was seized the second time. After correcting the minor flaps that had occurred during the first try. So you did not like the timing? You say: Why was the raid organized on a weekend; the people were not warned; and why did you stomp the floor, brandishing submachine guns? Our apologies—we all learn from our mistakes. Would Wednesday, in the middle of the week, be better for you? At 1800, after work? We can dispense with the submachine guns, too—are there any volunteers to go against the trained OMON [Special Designation Militia Detachments] guys and their truncheons? Regarding the warning—that you also had? As early as on Monday, authorized comrades had been trying to break through into the mayoralty with the order to replace the authorities. And by Wednesday the kray leadership paid a visit to the "Gray House," with the mission of dethroning Mayor V.I. Cherepkov and his first deputy, the city administrator V.A. Gilgenberg. The action was carried out by kray governor's deputies I.P. Lebedinets and A.V. Gartman, as well as kray administration department chiefs A.I. Yegorov, V.F. Terekhov, and K.B. Tolstoshein. A decree by acting head of kray administration I.P. Lebedinets was read out, relieving from his duties V.I. Cherepkov and appointing K.B. Tolstoshein as acting head of the city administration. In short, the protocol was observed—according to eyewitnesses inside the building.

As to eyewitnesses outside of it, they did not get to see much. OMON soldiers were behind the glass door, blocking it. The clank of that same door, letting out—in batches—mayoralty personnel. There were smiles on the faces of some ladies: Finally, real masters have arrived! Reinforcements arrived—an additional OMON group in camouflage fatigues.

"I managed to slip into the building several minutes before the raid: I had been warned on the impending action," says P.M. Dovgan'yuk, a former kray soviet deputy, and a candidate for the kray duma deputy. I was in V.I. Cherepkov's waiting room. Heard stomping feet and noise downstairs. Someone in the waiting room ran to close the door. I interfered—it did not make sense to close the door, it would be smashed into pieces anyway. They agreed with me. At that very moment OMON charged in. The storm troopers were being directed by a man in civilian clothes. He introduced himself as Ivanov.... City administrator Vladimir Gilgenberg behaved with great dignity...."

The closing scene of the city administrator's "dignified" appearance before the crowd milling in front of the building soon materialized. The door opened with a clank and Gilgenberg was thrown out, landing at the crowd's feet.

"As of today, in keeping with the directive, I was the acting mayor, because Viktor Ivanovich is sick," Vladimir Gilgenberg began his street interview to the surrounding journalists. "As usual, we were busy with work on that day. Adopted an additional decision on procedures for use of public transportation—free for city residents. Were putting the final touches on financing with respect to sanitation cleanup of the city. There were numerous financial documents, directives, important papers on my desk. And suddenly—the raid; my office is broken into, door kicked off hinges, and a rude "hassle" begins.... They dragged me out of the building head down.... Among the things left in my office were documents, my passport, personal effects, 400,000 rubles issued to me for the election campaign as a candidate for kray duma deputy, plus an advance I had received...."

Dusk was enveloping the city. Temperatures dropped to freezing. Many of those gathered at the mayoralty steps were stomping their feet, made short jogs to keep themselves warm—the cold was getting to people through spring-season short coats and jackets. Many were hatless but were afraid to leave. Against the background of the darkened building, the tenth floor was brightly lit. In his office, Mayor V.I. Cherepkov was bedridden, hooked to an IV. His wife was keeping watch at his bedside. The full "illumination" in Gilgenberg's office was easy to explain: A search was still under way there. The eyes of the people on the street were glued to this strip of light at the top. Cars with special license plates were lurking here and there around the building. An ambulance with the "03" telephone number on the hood. Minivans with tinted windows—"Black Nellies," picket members suspected.

In those moments, many felt themselves lost, helpless, and... unneeded. What do you do—shout in the middle of the night, in the center of the city getting ready to turn in for the night? Demand somebody or something? Deputy mayors, heads of rayon administrations were here; together with everyone else, shivering in the wind, these people stood outside their office building—now unemployed. They had been dismissed from jobs without any explanations, practically across the board—new bureaucrats, or to be precise, bureaucrats who had formerly held these jobs—already had been appointed. The circle had closed; the system had regenerated itself, rejecting a "foreign body...." Someone in the crowd kept repeating in amazement: "But why Tolstoshein? He had nearly the lowest rating during the mayoral elections—the people rejected him.... How can he, without blinking an eye, take the place of a person still there?" But nobody listened to these questions anymore—they were academic.

"What do you intend to do now?" the indefatigable ones kept pressing Gilgenberg. "How will events develop, anyway?"

"I remain a deputy to the kray duma. I will be meeting with my constituents. If necessary, right on the street. Let people see what can be done to the law here...."

Cherepkov was carried out from the building at past 0100.

"OMON soldiers were carrying the mayor feet first," said T.G. Romanenko, a candidate for kray duma deputy who kept vigil in the building until almost 0300. "There were so many people in camouflage uniforms that you could not see Cherepkov himself—only an occasional glimpse of sock-clad feet...."

This is how the incident in the mayoralty was carried out. Promptly and successfully. In the morning, numerous documents were read on the radio, explaining that since the mayor was suspected of committing a grave criminal offense (bribes), he had been temporarily—until the investigation was completed—removed from *duty*. The "temporary" nature of the act of deposing the mayor elected by the people was emphasized in the official comments many times. Each step in the seizure of the mayoralty was dressed in argumentation. Everything apparently exudes legitimacy and only legitimacy.

Nevertheless, it was all too thin. "Temporarily" put on the sidelines? Then why an equally rash destruction of the entire administrative structure created under Cherepkov? Such a hasty dismissal of personnel? Have they also been identified wholesale as criminals, or at least suspects? Cherepkov had not been able for months to get rid of obvious saboteurs—his deputies and rayon heads—because of all sorts of procedural red tape. Here, however, several minutes were enough—exactly as long as it takes to read out the personnel "sentence."

And also, there is this disturbing bravura march, the coronation speech on the occasion of the new mayor assuming his duties. It was as if a magic tablecloth had been spread before the stunned city residents—transportation, dacha, merchandise, social and charitable goodies.... Which born of abundance did it all come from? In what warehouses had it all been hidden from the city residents, exhausted by adversity? What billions and millions are behind it? If only this could all be true. Except that somehow one feels sad at this promised feast....

Details on Ouster

944F0470A Vladivostok VLADIVOSTOK in Russian 18 Mar 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Nikolay Kutenkikh, Aleksandr Maltsev, Andrey Ostrovskiy, Vyacheslav Veyakin, and Yuriy Maltsev, VLADIVOSTOK: "As the Mayor Was Being Removed, the City Was Watching 'Just Maria.' On the Evening of 16 March, Viktor Cherepkov Was Relieved of the Position of the Mayor of Vladivostok, and Konstantin Tolstoshein Was Appointed Acting Mayor"]

[Text] **Yesterday's issue of VLADIVOSTOK reported rumors circulating in the city concerning the inevitable removal of Viktor Cherepkov on Wednesday, 16 March. Our prediction turned out to be accurate.**

On 16 March, at approximately 1800 hours, Deputy Governors Igor Lebedinets (the acting supreme official of the kray in view of Yevgeniy Nazdratenko's attending a meeting of the Federation Council in Moscow) and Alfred Gartman appeared at the building of the administration of Vladivostok. They announced the removal of the mayor of Vladivostok, Viktor Cherepkov, from his position and the appointment of Konstantin Tolmachev as the acting head of the administration of Vladivostok. The latter has previously held the job of chairman of the committee for industry of the kray administration, and prior to that—head of the administration of Pervorechenskiy Rayon of the city.

From this moment on, the events began to develop that were witnessed by a team of VLADIVOSTOK journalists who worked between 1800 and 0400 hours in the area of the White and Gray Houses, as well as Cherepkov's apartment.

Upon returning to his office, Igor Lebedinets informed a VLADIVOSTOK correspondent that at 1700 hours, Deputy Procurator of Frunzenskiy Rayon Aleksandr Vysotskiy had signed a decree to relieve Cherepkov from his position. This document had been ratified by Kray Procurator Valeriy Vasilenko, as well as cleared by the kray court. The latter procedure was legally necessary in view of the fact that Viktor Cherepkov is a candidate for deputy of the kray duma.

As far as the decree itself is concerned, it said the following on the basis of the records of criminal case No. 474731 on the charges against V.I. Cherepkov under Article 173, part 3, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (taking a bribe): "V.I. Cherepkov has been charged with accepting from citizen V.N. Volkov a bribe in a particularly large amount, in the form of a Swiss-made Omega wristwatch worth 2,762,100 rubles [R], while working as the head of the Vladivostok administration, on 6 February 1994, in his official suite No. 1001 at the building of the city administration at 20 Ocean Avenue, for a positive decision in favor of Volkov concerning the transfer to him under a lease of premises from the nonresidential stock of municipal property for an office of the Vikhr Moscow association of internationalist soldiers. ....On 10 February 1994, V.I. Cherepkov received a bribe in a particularly large amount from Volkov in the form of R3 million for the previously rendered service in transferring the office premises under a lease...."

The document also stresses that it became necessary to remove V.I. Cherepkov from his position given that the position held by him may interfere with establishing the truth in the case.

From 1800 hours on, the building of the city administration was blockaded by UVD [Internal Affairs Directorate] functionaries. They began to clear the building of staff employees and visitors. Some of the latter locked themselves in their offices, and for this reason some doors were broken down. The militia also had to break down the door to the mayor's office, which had prudently been locked from the inside. Nonetheless, as the spouse of the mayor, Valentina Cherepkova, and the former city manager Vladimir Gilgenberg testified, Alfred Gartman, who entered the office first, behaved in an exceptionally proper manner, stating that he had come there primarily as a physician.

Between approximately 1800 and 2100 hours, the kray supporters of Cherepkov—V. Gilgenberg, S. Dolotov, T. Romanenko, S. Shokolenko, G. Petrachkov, and V. Kalenik—left the building on a coercively voluntary basis. By this time, no more than 50 people were gathered on the grounds and the steps in front of the Gray House; half of them were activists of the so-called "Association of Vladivostok Voters," and half were journalists. All attempts to break through into the building were stopped by UVD functionaries who, in the estimation of observers, operated mainly within the bounds of the law "On the Militia" (including the use of force to put an end to unlawful actions and actions interfering with the performance of official duties of the militia).

At approximately 2130 hours, it became known that the newly appointed mayor had demanded that V.I. Cherepkov leave the office and the building by 0030 hours. However, this event occurred at 0115 hours, when the door swung open, and people in plainclothes, flanked by a group of baton-wielding militia functionaries, carried the dismissed mayor out of the building.

The hysterical condition of the elderly admirers of Viktor Ivanovich, who suspected the worst, rose to its heights. A wild crush and swarm and shouting ensued—all of this went on for five to seven minutes, until Cherepkov was placed in an ambulance, which was immediately cordoned off by a double circle of OMON [Special Missions Militia Detachment] combatants. Several minutes later, the wife of the former mayor, who was holding up quite courageously, got into the car, and the ambulance moved almost right away in the direction of Cherepkov's house on Kalinin Street.

Upon arrival at the destination, Galina Gordiyenko, the physician of the ambulance team who had observed Viktor Ivanovich for a few of the last hours in the office, stated in a conversation with a VLADIVOSTOK correspondent that Cherepkov had a pronounced stress condition and stenocardia. She categorically denied information disseminated in front of the Gray House concerning an infarction that the "retiree" had supposedly had.

* * * *

At approximately 2030 on 16 March, City Manager Vladimir Gilgenberg, by then the former city manager, left the Gray House. However, he did not do so on his own, but rather with assistance from militia functionaries. One hour to an hour and a half later, a VLADIVOSTOK journalist met with Vladimir Andreyevich

among his supporters, next to the building of the city administration and asked him a few questions.

[Journalist] Has violence been used by the militia against you?

[Gilgenberg] Of course, I was not beaten up, but I was driven out of the office. I was not allowed to remain by the side of the legitimately elected mayor and was bounced off the premises.

[Journalist] They say that you called Moscow.

[Gilgenberg] Yes. I notified the leadership of the State Duma; they promised to take up our issue as early as Thursday. I talked to the leader of one of the factions, but for now I will not say which one.

[Journalist] Did you foresee the forthcoming events?

[Gilgenberg] Yes, in principle. Backstage scheming had begun as early as Monday. Incidentally, it was precisely on Monday that I became acting mayor; after all, Viktor Ivanovich took sick leave, apparently on account of microfocal myocardial infarction. The kray administration picked the time quite fortuitously. Yeltsin was in Sochi, Nazdratenko was in Moscow, and who was procurator general was altogether unclear.

* * * *

The newspaper VLADIVOSTOK became the first publication to which the new leader of the city administration, Konstantin Tolstoshein, gave an interview. This happened at 0300 hours on 17 March.

[Journalist] Konstantin Borisovich, when did you learn about your appointment?

[Tolstoshein] In all honesty? On Wednesday, at 1730 hours. I was working at the kray administration (Tolstoshein's previous position was that of the chairman of the committee for industry of the kray administration) when it was proposed that I head the municipality of Vladivostok.

[Journalist] Did you agree right away?

[Tolstoshein] Yes, I did not hesitate any on this point. The city needs to be rescued. Look what they have done to Vladivostok—it is a pain and a shame. There is dirt, lack of care, the breakdown of the economy and transportation, lack of social protection for many of the almost 800,000 inhabitants of the city, and other woes.

[Journalist] What will you work on first of all?

[Tolstoshein] Four areas will have priority: a cleanup in the city with the hygiene and disease control service, housing and communal management, and other subdivisions participating; the operation of public transportation, especially in conjunction with the coming of the recreational season; an analysis of the operation of the committee for property management and assistance to low- income citizens, families with many children, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, the war in Afghanistan, and those in other hot spots. Finally, we should begin preparations for the forthcoming winter heating season as early as Thursday, including financing, material and technical supplies, and solutions to similar problems.

[Journalist] Attention will certainly be paid to personnel policy, will it not?

[Tolstoshein] It goes without saying. The city administration was bloated to an impossible size and, accordingly, wages claimed a tremendous amount of funds from our budget. We will emphasize professionals rather than political scientists, disc jockeys, and historians along with psychics. Some five or six deputy mayors will remain instead of the current 13, although nobody intends to make this into a dogma. As early as 2000 hours on 14 March, I signed a decree on firing the city manager and similar officials. Knowledgeable people will come to replace them. For example, Vladimir Terekhov, the chief of the organization and inspection directorate of the kray administration, will become a deputy mayor.

The institution of rayons will be restored, with greater independence being granted to them, but also with greater requirements. We had to dismiss the old heads appointed by my predecessor. Viktor Pletnev and Sergey Zhurmilov have returned to replace them in Pervomayskiy and Leninskiy Rayons. Viktor Goncharov and Aleksandr Avdeyev have been appointed to Pervorechenskiy and Frunzenskiy Rayons. For now, Deputy Head of the Administration Tamara Vadilyeva will discharge the responsibilities of the head of Sovetskiy Rayon (Sergey Fil is studying at an academy).

[Journalist] Who put the functionaries of law enforcement organs at your disposal?

[Tolstoshein] Militia functionaries were provided through the channels of the kray and city UVD's. Legality was fully upheld, especially as far as the removal of the former mayor from his position is concerned.

[Journalist] Why was City Procurator Vyacheslav Yaroshenko absent?

[Tolstoshein] I invited him that evening. However, he said he was sick and did not show up at the Gray House.

[Journalist] How would you comment on the fact that Viktor Cherepkov was hand-carried out of the office?

[Tolstoshein] I tried to explain to Viktor Ivanovich and his wife, Valentina Petrovna, that the office of the head of the city administration does not belong personally to Cherepkov, Tolstoshein, Ivanov, or Petrov; it is the place where the mayor works. If one is sick, he should receive treatment at home or in the hospital. At first, Valentina Petrovna asked for three hours, and then until the morning. An ambulance had to be called three times.

In summation, I would like to say that the time of political demarches and a confrontation between the city administration and the kray administration is over. The time of tedious work has begun.

Eyewitness to Ouster

944P0046A Vladivostok UTRO ROSSII in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by D. Brodyanskiy, authorized electoral representative of Russian Republican Party Maritime Kray organization and authorized representative of candidates to kray duma V.I. Cherepkov and T.G. Romanenko, under the "An Eyewitness Account" rubric: "Lebedinets and Tolstoshein Took the Mayoralty by Storm"]

[Text] A roundtable at the UTRO ROSSII editorial offices was interrupted by an agitated female voice: The mayoralty is under attack. But.... the mayoralty was not stormed for another.... 15-20 minutes. They began at 1814: An OMON [Special Designation Militia Detachment] detachment poured out from a couple of dozen cars and, having easily pushed aside the women at the entrance, stomped to the 10th floor. The door to the mayor's office was broken down (this is the way they probably "seize" apartments?). Women were dragged out of the building by the arm. I personally saw V.A. Gilgenberg, for the third day the acting mayor (the mayor himself is ill) being thrown out of the building; in the process the metal door was thrown open by Gilgenberg's head squeezed under the arm of a powerfully built OMON soldier. The whole operation was directed personally by Lebedinets, who had announced the dismissal of the mayor on the grounds of criminal proceedings initiated against him and the appointment of a new mayor—Tolstoshein, and his deputy Terekhov. Attorney Ulitskiy was not permitted to visit Cherepkov.

At 0100 the pickets and journalists who gathered at the mayoralty became witnesses and participants in the concluding part of the operation: An OMON group, pushing their way through the crowd, carried out V.I. Cherepkov; his face was a strange green color and lifeless. The mayor was placed into an ambulance surrounded by militiamen, which then took him and his wife home. The small apartment quickly filled with people. (It had not occurred to our mayor to get for himself a larger apartment while he was in power). The ambulance physician apologized—she was only carrying out orders. She recalled what a good doctor Gartman used to be. Now this participant in the operation approved the "transfer" of the patient that night. Which means that Gartman used to be a doctor; who he is now is not for us to judge. Among those watching the proceedings from the mayoralty's steps was a militia officer and some imposing figure in a "macho" black coat. I asked him to introduce himself but got no answer. I was told this actually was Tolstoshein.

At the same time, in a classic Bolshevik manner, they went after rayons where new heads of administration were installed. Head of Pervorechenskiy Rayon A.V. Kuchinskiy had his official car—some "land-cruiser" that before then had served Tolstoshein—confiscated while he was riding in it. The coup was now complete.

People we called in the State Duma assured us that this was all illegal. That opening a door with a man's head is illegal is obvious even without the Duma. That a sick man is "treated" by OMON is inhuman. That on the eve of elections all this is done to candidates is a mockery of the recently adopted Constitution. All together it is a slap in the face of the city, all of us. People may have different feelings about the mayor and his supporters, but when the law is trampled so brazenly, openly, it means that no one is safe—tomorrow they can use the head of any of us as a battering ram. Kray Procurator V.V. Vasilenko postponed a telephone conversation regarding candidates' rights until tomorrow, and denied his part in the operation—it is the investigator, he said. Someone among the "bearers" told Gilgenberg that the "kray court had concurred" on the action.

The militia—dozens of cars and about 100 participants—have demonstrated its might and drive. Would it not be nice if they used all this might against racketeers, apartment burglars, and pickpockets—Vladivostok would be safer than Lillehamer.

Office windows lit up one after another at the mayoralty's floors; S.P. Goryacheva probably will now have more material for new denunciations of the trashed mayoralty. There was no concern for observing due process—it is not necessary to comply with its norms during a coup. What to do, everybody will now decide for himself. But we do have to turn out for elections. And vote in such a way that would deprive the party of the nomenklatura coup from getting the votes—at least in our city.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Satisfied on 'Common Positions' With Perry

LD2203174594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovsky]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk is satisfied that the defense ministers of Ukraine and USA during recent talks "reached common positions on most issues which today can be resolved," Kravchuk said at a meeting with Pentagon Chief Willian Perry on Monday.

Kravchuk also said: "There are issues which cannot be resolved today, but gradually they can be resolved if there is willingness to do so."

On the same day the defense ministers of the two countries Vitaly Radetsky and William Perry signed an agreement on additional US aid to Ukraine for the liquidation of nuclear weapons.

As Perry told journalists after the signing ceremony, Ukraine will be given an additional $50 million for the dismantling of nuclear arms. In December last year the USA granted $135 million to Ukraine for that purpose.

Noting that cooperation between the two countries is very important in the strategical aspect, Perry stressed the particular significance of interaction between the military ministries of Ukraine and the USA.

Perry said that an agreement was also reached on "frequent and close" ties between the general headquarters and leaders of the military ministries of the two countries.

Radetsky called the fact that with the US and Russian help Ukraine managed to get out of a nuclear stalemate and sign a trilateral Moscow statement on the liquidation of nuclear weapons on its territory "a historic step." He said all obstacles to Ukraine's joining the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons had been eliminated.

Radetsky pointed out that developing cooperation between Ukraine and the USA promotes both global and regional security.

At a meeting on the same day Perry and Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valery Shmarov decided to charge experts with preparing an agreement or a communique which would reflect a common position of Ukraine and the USA on nuclear disarmament and cooperation in the space and rocket field.

Chairman of the Ukrainian parliamentary commission on defense and state security issues Valentin Lemish told journalists that probably a bilateral commission will be formed to control the disarmament process in Ukraine.

Defense Minister on Talks

LD2203234994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Address by Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy at joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry in Kiev on 22 March—recorded]

[Text] [Radetskyy] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen: Today we are summing up the official visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry to Ukraine. This is his first visit to Ukraine in his capacity as the U.S. secretary of defense. We regard it as a sign of dynamism in the development of relations between our countries' military departments.

My view is that the negotiations were held in the spirit of constructive cooperation, were fruitful, and achieved their aim. They once again confirmed Ukraine's intention to travel the path of democracy and openness to the world, which had not been inherent in the position of the former Soviet Union.

The U.S. secretary of defense visited the 46th Missile Division's combat positions, which was a historic visit since we could not even think about this not so long ago. The negotiations convincingly proved that the course towards strengthening trust and understanding between the defense departments of Ukraine and the United States, initiated by our predecessors, is the right one and corresponds with the interests of our states and of ensuring peace in Europe.

In the course of exchanging our opinions, our views on a wide variety of issues relating to mutual relations between Ukraine and the United States coincided considerably. These issues are closely linked to the problems of world and European security.

It should also be emphasized that this is the third time that the secretary and I have met in the last three months, and I hope we understand each other well.

Ukraine has made its choice in respect of nuclear disarmament. The world witnesses how Ukraine's good will with regard to lessening the threat of nuclear confrontation is being implemented in specific steps in practice. A certain number of strategic missiles have already been deactivated and two trainloads of nuclear warheads have already left for Russia on schedule.

We are grateful to the United States for their diplomatic efforts, thanks to which the trilateral statement by the U.S., Ukrainian, and Russian presidents on nuclear disarmament in Ukraine became a reality in action. Financial aid from the American side will no doubt ease the heavy burden of nuclear disarmament on the economy of Ukraine, which is already in a difficult state.

We have begun implementing conversion programs and you, Mr. Secretary, have already had an opportunity to see it for yourself. At the same time, you have come to

know our scientific and military industrial complex and its potential. We are a rocket and space power, which is why the attitude towards us has to correspond with the aspects of reality that have arisen. It is in this respect that we hope for understanding and support from the United States.

Our states are actively participating in peacekeeping activities under UN auspices. We have reached complete understanding with our American colleagues that any political issues must primarily be settled by peaceful means.

A bloody crisis in the former Yugoslavia demonstrates that efforts to prevent the flare-up of military conflicts are vital.

Attempts by certain political forces to play the so-called Crimean card and provide support overtly or covertly for the separatist movement on the peninsula cause concern in Ukraine. Ukraine will take all steps required to preserve its territorial integrity in a peaceful, civilized way.

The fact that the United States consistently stands for the inviolability of the existing borders and is not indifferent to the Crimean problem, and in particular to the future destiny of the Black Sea Fleet, provides us with moral support in a complex process of the political settlement of the issue.

We reached understanding with Mr. Perry on issues of the Black Sea Fleet and the sequence of actions on its division. This process should begin by making an inventory of all the property and combat machinery the fleet owns.

Ukraine was the first CIS state to join NATO's Partnership for Peace program. This demonstrates our sincere endeavors to develop peaceful, good-neighborly relations with all participating countries. The program, initiated by the United States, gives hope for the strengthening of the European security system. We are certain that within this system Ukraine will occupy an important position befitting it. The value of the Partnership for Peace program for Ukraine in particular is that it gives our state an opportunity to establish multilateral ties with every interested country. Ukraine can become a bridge of understanding between East and West, the need for which is so perceptible. And it is this circumstance that imparts particular importance to fruitful bilateral relations between the defense departments of Ukraine and the United States.

Now we have already achieved certain success in developing these bilateral relations. Our ministries' working groups have agreed on a work plan consisting of 11 paragraphs, each of which contains specific programs for the development of contacts in the military sphere. Some of them have already been put into practice. In the very near future, we intend to establish with our American partners a direct line of communications between our states' defense departments. This step will undoubtedly help resolve more promptly the problems that arise in our relations.

We look forward to interesting meetings on a bilateral basis and contacts at various levels. In future, we can see participation in joint exercises and exchanges of military servicemen right from combat subunits. All this inspires hope that understanding between our countries' Armed Forces will strengthen.

Mr. Perry's visit has lived up to the best of our expectations. An important document was adopted: an amendment to the agreement between our military departments on the provision of Ukraine with materials, machinery, and communications services in eliminating strategic nuclear weapons. Under this amendment, Ukraine will receive an additional $50 million towards nuclear disarmament, with the total sum to be 185 million. A joint statement has been worked out and signed on meeting Ukrainian Armed Forces servicemen's daily life and housing needs, providing for aid in the amount of $20 million for the construction of housing.

In general, the program of the visit was intensive. A delegation from the U.S. Department of Defense had meetings with our state's leadership, scientists, and representatives of the military industrial complex.

I express the viewpoint of the Ukrainian side: We evaluate the results of Mr. Perry's visit to Ukraine with satisfaction. It is the continuation of a constructive dialogue between our countries' military. This dialogue is now acquiring certain qualities of a good tradition.

My deep conviction is that the development of bilateral relations between the defense departments of Ukraine and the United States will promote stronger peace and stability both in Europe and worldwide.

Perry Visits Strategic Missile Unit

LD2203195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1925 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksey Agureyev, UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev March 22 TASS—U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry has been the first foreign defence minister to visit a strategic missile unit in Pervomaysk, Ukraine, and a classified military plant in Dnepropetrovsk.

Ukraine ranks the world's third in the number of nuclear warheads stationed on its territory. It is preceded only by the United States and Russia. Two types of missiles are stationed in Pervomaysk, the Nikolayev region. Part of missiles have been dismantled.

The U.S. Pentagon head visited a dismantled missile silo to see a de-activated SS-24 missile. The secretary was told by Ukrainian servicemen that warheads have been

removed from 30 SS-24 missiles and eleven SS-19 missiles. All in all, this will be done to 46 SS- 24 and 30 SS-19 missiles.

Last year Ukrainian specialists took off duty two regiments of strategic missiles. One of them to include ten systems was withdrawn from Pervomaysk. Nuclear warheads have been dismantled and sent to technical storages, missiles have been removed from silos, fuel and oxidizer were put into special tanks, loaded into freight cars and set to the Yuzhmash plant in Dnepropetrovsk.

The U.S. defence secretary visited the Yuzhmash plant, which earlier produced the world's only high-precision heavy missiles capable to deliver up to ten warheads of megaton weight. The plant and its design bureau produced four generations of intercontinental ballistic missiles and made the first artificial earth satellite of the Cosmos series together with the rocket booster.

Now the plant continues to produce space equipment, simultaneously with first Ukrainian trolley-buses and wind engines.

Russia To Resume Supply of Nuclear Fuel

LD2203184694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Russia will resume the supply of nuclear fuel to Ukraine after it gets next week the $60 Mn promised by the U.S. This was reported at a briefing in Kiev on Tuesday by the Chairman for Ukraine's Atomic Energy Committee Mikhail Umanets after his discussion with Russia's Atomic Energy Minister Victor Mikhailov.

In the conversation with Umanets, Mikhailov blamed the breaking of the time-table for nuclear fuel delivery to Ukraine on Russia's failure to settle accounts with a fuel producing plant in Novosibirsk (East Siberia).

Umanets also reported that by his information the Novosibirsk plant was interested in the Ukrainian market since Ukraine had always been one of its major clients. He declined to give concrete figures on fuel shipments on the ground that such information is classified.

He pointed out that the construction of a nuclear fuel plant in Ukraine was "an urgent national task." In his opinion, Ukraine has everything that is needed to cope with the task, including uranium ore, "which has been supplied to Russia and returned as ready-made fuel."

"The price at which we buy fuel in Russia amounts to 64 percent of the prime cost of electricity generated in Ukraine. With the commencement of a state fuel producing plant, this indicator could be almost halved," Umanets said.

In his words, feasibility tests on such a project are to be completed this year.

New Agreement With EC To Lift Export Restrictions

LD2203141894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev, 22 Mar—Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Oleksandr Makarenko held a briefing on the results of the fourth round of negotiations between delegations of Ukraine and the European Community which took place between 14 and 18 March in Brussels. The EC expert group at the negotiations was led by Fikion Fotiadis, who heads the directorate for relations with newly independent nations other than Russia.

Mr. Makarenko told journalists that as a result of the negotiations Ukraine's agreement with the EC was finalized and coordinated with European Commission experts. According to him, the initialling of this agreement signifies a practical step by Ukraine toward integration in the EC. He said that the success of the negotiations was helped by the extension of the European Commission's mandate for negotiations with Ukraine approved by the EC Council of Ministers on 7 March. The draft agreement was technically initialled at the level of experts on 18 March, Mr. Makarenko said. It is due to be officially initialled on 23 March, during Anatoliy Zlenko's visit to Brussels. It is planned that the agreement will be signed by the president of Ukraine in May-June this year.

The agreement is a detailed, comprehensive document stipulating the conditions for political, economic, trade, and humanitarian cooperation between Ukraine and the EEC. As soon as it takes effect, Ukraine will be exempt from quantitative trade restrictions (except for textiles, metallurgical products, and nuclear components). Under the agreement, Ukraine undertakes certain obligations, such as to pursue market reforms. The participants at the briefing stressed that the content of the document puts to shame those who said Europe does not need Ukraine.

Oleksandr Makarenko said that Ukraine and the European Commission will start talks in 1998 on including Ukraine in the free trade zone.

Zlenko Ratifies Agreement

WS2303165894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] As reported by NOVYNY television and radio agency correspondent, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko ratified today the agreement on cooperation with the European Union [EU]. Ratification took place at the EU Headquarters in Brussels. The foreign minister underlined that the Ukrainian side views this document as an important step toward granting legal treaty footing to cooperation with this authoritative organization. Zlenko pointed out that it is of primary importance that the document lays a foundation for equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in a wide range of political, economic, and humanitarian issues.

Zlenko on Joining 'France-Germany-Poland Axis'

LD2203183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] If Ukraine joins the France-Germany-Poland axis, this will contribute to the spread of Western democracy to the East, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko, who is currently on an official visit to Warsaw, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

According to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko, this would assist with creating a kind of atmosphere that would help to resolve many problems on the former USSR territory. Ukraine might be a significant addition to the axis, Foreign Minister Zlenko suggested. However, he remarked that the issue had not as yet been settled.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko did not sound optimistic when speaking about possible joining of Russia to the G-7. He considered Russian-Ukrainian relations to be normal ones between partners. However, he pointed out that there were some unsettled problems.

Commenting on the Crimean issue, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko said "Russia and Ukraine display tolerance towards the Crimea." According to him, to resolve the issue as some Crimean politicians propose to do would mean transgressing the principles of international law.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko confirmed the intention of Kiev to settle the issue concerning the Black Sea Fleet in accordance with the Yalta, Massandra and Dagomys agreements. He said this approach had been agreed upon during his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Odessa last autumn.

Zlenko, Walesa Sign Pact

WS2203165094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] This morning, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who is on an official visit in Poland, met with Polish President Lech Walesa. The Polish president assessed positively the documents that were signed in Warsaw: A declaration on principles of Ukrainian-Polish partnership, and an agreement on the care of graves and memorial sites of victims of war and repression. Lech Walesa also stressed that the joint stance of the two states could affect European development. The opportunities of our states are enormous, emphasized the Polish president. Everything depends on how we step up our cooperation to reach the maximum effect. Our special correspondent [word indistinct] Andrey (Shcherba) reports this from Warsaw.

National Affairs

Cabinet Adopts 'New and Energetic' Reform Steps

WS2303102194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] New and energetic steps toward a market economy will be made this year in Ukraine. This is the essence of several measures adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers. They are directed at fulfilling the state program for demonopolizing the economy and developing overall competence which was already drafted by the legislature. The legal basis of the aforementioned processes will be upgraded by adopting new normative acts. Each branch and region will receive a complex program of market changes. Other measures address the issues of providing the information, personnel, and other facilities necessary for the implementation of this program.

Kravchuk Statement on Ukrainian Currency

WS2303104294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Statement by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk after officially opening a new factory to produce banknotes in Kiev on 22 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] If we have foreign money, our bank headed by Viktor Andreevich [Yushchenko] will become a branch of the Russian Central Bank. This is normal, we should not blame the Russian Bank; this is a normal agreement. If you are going to introduce the ruble, you have to become a branch. Then, the newly elected deputies will gather in the Supreme Council and will have to adopt decisions concerning their money, on [words indistinct], taxation and they will be told that this does not correspond to the interests of the Russian National Bank. This is normal. Therefore, under these conditions, the people will be allowed to elect deputies, but the deputies will not be allowed to adopt ("independent decisions). Therefore, we—myself, the prime minister, and the National Bank chairman—are here to stress that this is a symbol of our independence. If you hear talk about something else, this is only a deception and represents an attempt to swindle the people. I do not want to focus your attention on this particular aspect, but money, finances, and banks are symbols. When reforms begin—well, they have already begun—[words indistinct] in Ukraine will set up our own banking system.

Kuchma, Hrynyov Explain Reforms Bloc's Position

AU2203173094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Mar 94 p 2

[Zakhar Butyrskyy report: "L. Kuchma and V. Hrynyov Are Preparing a Party"]

[Text] On 15 March, the attention of journalists became focused on a well-known organization, which has been particularly active on the eve of the elections: The Interregional Bloc of Reforms [MBR]. A news conference of the MBR cochairmen Leonid Kuchma and Volodymyr Hryayov was held in the lecture-hall of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

According to them, a few days ago, at the second regional MBR conference in Dnipropetrovsk, 389 out of 500 representatives of 23 Ukrainian oblasts joined the bloc, and V. Hryayov and L. Kuchma signed an appeal to the people of Ukraine calling upon them to attend the elections and, of course, give support to the candidates of the MBR. "If, on 27 March, you do not come to the elections, this will mean that you do not want changes. If you do not come to the elections, the policy, which has placed the people on the verge of extinction, will continue. If you do not come to the elections, that would mean that you deserve your present standard of living. We call upon you to say, on 27 March, "no" to the isolationist and adventurist policy and "no" to the collapse of the economy and to the impoverishment of the people. We call upon you to say "yes" to Ukraine's future!" reads the appeal.

At the beginning, as expected, the program, goals, and principles of the MBR were discussed and, toward the end, the personality of L. Kuchma was "dealt with." Many people were, for example, surprised to read the article on the need to grant equal status to the Ukrainian and Russian languages in Ukraine. However, the two cochairmen of the MBR look upon this problem in a quite simple and calm manner: Why should we argue about such "petty matters" now that the economy is nearing total collapse? In the opinion of the MBR, contacts with Russia must be restored, and Ukraine must become a full member of the economic CIS union. "We are convinced that Russia and Ukraine must become strategic partners and allies," said Hryayov.

The MBR also considers combating crime to be one of its future tasks. According to the MBR, the method of struggle is simple. "All power must be concentrated within a single center," said L. Kuchma. L. Kuchma's explanation of the so-called Crimean issue was quite interesting: "If the wages in the Crimea is $21 and in Russia—$91, the striving of the Crimeans is clear and understandable. It is necessary to grant more freedom to regions, but this does not mean that it is necessary to create 25 Crimeas in Ukraine." Hryayov, for example, believes that there must be free economic zones, but not many of them. "I do not think that people will refer to a good place as a "zone" [prison camp]," said L. Kuchma. "If we create a zone, the rest of the oblasts will do everything to have such a zone fail." L. Kuchma sees a solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem in leasing it, together with the infrastructure, to Russia, but doing as like normal civilized countries do—on terms advantageous for ourselves.

The MBR leaders are in no hurry to propose themselves as candidates for the post of Ukrainian president. In V. Hryayov's opinion, it is, first, necessary to create a stable faction in the parliament, since a future president, if he wants to work successfully, must gain the support of the overwhelming majority of the population and of a parliamentary majority.

The MBR leaders plan, in the case of a favorable alignment of forces in the parliament, to transform the MBR into a regular political party. However this, according to them, will be decided at the third conference, which will be held shortly after the elections. At present, L. Kuchma is going to tour Ukraine's electoral districts in order to win over votes for his bloc.

Crimean President Announcement of 'Poll'

944K0904B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Announcement released by the Press Service of the President of the Republic of Crimea: "Announcement"]

[Text] In connection with the decree of the Central Electoral Commission on elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Crimea of 12 March 1994, the press service of the President of the Republic of Crimea is authorized to make the following announcement:

1. In his edict "On the Conduct of a Poll of Citizens of the Republic of Crimea of 27 March 1994," the President of the Republic of Crimea, carrying out the will of the voters and also taking into account the refusal of the Supreme Council of Crimea to remove the moratorium on the conduct of an all-Crimean referendum, has ensured the right of citizens of the Republic of Crimea to express their opinion on the most important problems having general Crimean significance.

2. In setting the date of the poll, the president proceeded from the fact that, given the assistance of the Central Electoral Commission in the course of the simultaneous conduct of both the poll and elections of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, it will be possible to avoid substantial organizational and material costs.

3. The organization and conduct of the poll of citizens will be entrusted to the leaders of executive authorities in the localities who will also be the representatives of the Republic of Crimea in electoral commissions.

4. The sphere of activity of the representatives of the president attached to the electoral commissions is confined to organizational cooperation between the services of the president and the electoral commissions during the preparation and conduct of the polling of the citizens of the Republic of Crimea.

The president intends to take the will of the citizens of Crimea into account in the resolution of the most important state problems in the future as well.

[Signed] Press Service of the President of the Republic of Crimea.

Election Commission Protests

944K0912A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Statement by the Central Electoral Commission for the Election of Deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea]

[Text] On 15 March 1994 the president of the Republic of Crimea read out an appeal to the electorate, citizens' associations, trade union organizations, workforce, and members of electoral commissions, proposing that the members of the electoral commissions adopt decisions on the commissions' participation in a poll of citizens scheduled by a presidential edict for 27 March 1994 with notification of the pertinent executive authorities of the decisions on the poll so adopted.

In connection with the said appeal the Central Electoral Commission declares that:

In accordance with Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, the organization and activity of state authorities of the Republic of Crimea shall be based on a separation of powers, with actions in violation of this condition being deemed anticonstitutional.

The organization of the work of electoral commissions is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of Crimea. The executive's demand for actions by the electoral commissions for which provision is not made by the Republic of Crimea law "Election of Deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea" without the corresponding decision of the Supreme Council of Crimea is not based on law.

Considering the difficulty of the elections conducted simultaneously by the electoral commissions of deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea and the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the Central Electoral Commission calls the attention of the electoral commissions to the need for unswerving compliance with the Republic of Crimea Constitution and the Republic of Crimea law "Election of the Supreme Council of Crimea" and will adopt the necessary measures to ensure legality in their activity.

Expressing a protest against the unfounded assertions of the president of the Republic of Crimea concerning the Central Electoral Commission's violations of legislation of the Republic of Crimea, **the Central Electoral Commission appeals to the electorate, political parties, and other public associations of the citizens and the workforce to refrain from actions putting political pressure on members of the electoral commissions and to display forbearance and organization in order to ensure that the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of Crimea on 27 March 1994 be held in an atmosphere of observance of democracy and in full conformity with the requirements of Republic of Crimea legislation.**

[Signed] Central Electoral Commission for the Election of Deputies of the Supreme Council of Crimea

• • •

We asked V. Alnufyev, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, to answer this question: Does this statement mean deadlock and a boycott of the president's poll decree?

"No, it does not. There is no deadlock and no boycott. A poll is possible. And the Central Electoral Commission is prepared to assist in its execution. But the execution of a poll, not a consultative referendum as signified by this word in the president's edict. The execution of the latter requires, according to the law, a special decision by the Supreme Council."

Commission Supports Referendum

LD2203205594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Crimea's Central Electoral Commission has passed a resolution on providing support for a poll to be held among the peninsula's population, set by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to take place on 27 March. The commission reports this resolution was the result of a compromise between the Central Electoral Commission and the autonomy's head of executive power. The required changes and amendments to his directive had been made by the president, which in commission members' view will ensure differences between the directive and the legislation are settled.

The Central Electoral Commission agreed organizationally to help carry out a poll among those wishing to do this. It will not, however, take part in determining its results. This function is to be performed by officials authorized by the Crimean president.

Donetsk To Hold Poll on Regional Autonomy, Language

PM2203163794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Boris Sverdlov report: "Donetsk Adds to Voting Slip"]

[Text] Donetsk—Donetsk, famed in the late 1980's throughout the former Union as a city of millions of roses and chestnut-tree-lined boulevards and for its flourishing industry and coal deposits, is today on the brink of extinction. Enterprises are closing down one after the other. Tens of thousands of workers are out of a job, and more still have been forced to take unpaid leave. The budget deficit has hit 100 billion karbovantsy.

The budget planned by the government for this year does not even have sufficient funds to pay miners' wages. Because of the total bankruptcy of the city coffers, the socioeconomic program, which requires, according to the most modest calculations, 4.5 trillion karbovantsy,

has been ruined. Thus the city deemed the world's most flourishing young industrial center by UNESCO 20 years ago is falling into decline.

Now the sole hope left to the Donbass is for implementation of the president's edict granting economic autonomy to the four oblasts of southeast Ukraine, which will open the way to revive links with Russia and cut contributions to the state budget. But for now, unfortunately, owing to existing laws restricting self-management in the localities, the oblast administrations are unable to make use of the edict.

And Kiev's legislators have no particular wish to modify the laws. So Oblast Soviet deputies decided during the parliamentary elections to conduct a consultative poll of the population asking the questions: "Do you support a federative-regional structure for Ukraine?" and "Are you in favor of Ukraine joining the CIS as a full member?" Although the poll has no legal force, it will serve as another reminder to the authorities of the view of the inhabitants of the most industrialized region. Moreover even today, to judge from sociological polls, it is clear that 90 percent will respond to these questions in the affirmative. And there is nothing surprising in this. If the industrial Donbass were offered full autonomy in the quest for markets and raw material suppliers, if it were to be rid of at least part of the excessive yoke of customs duties, then it would, experts believe, succeed quite quickly in stabilizing its economy, which would ultimately have a beneficial effect on Ukraine as a whole.

One more vital question for voters is included: "Do you agree that Ukraine should have a second state language—Russian?" All oblasts in the southeast of the republic, without exception, favor bilingualism. And they are awaiting an appropriate amendment from the new parliament on this issue.

Donetsk Autonomy Hope Seen Stymied by Kiev

944K0910A Donetsk AKTSENT in Russian 18 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by V. Zhigalin: "Hopes of Regional Independence Melt in Greater Kiev"]

[Text] As an example, one fact revealing the industrial infrastructure of our region. Despite its powerful production potential, Donetsk Oblast works for itself only 9 percent, the rest—production of the means of production. In today's economic chaos, when relations with other regions of the former Union have been severed, we are colossally vulnerable. It is now essential to move away from single-commodity works, introduce the latest technology, and switch to the region's self-support. But how is this to be done?

The idea for the development of a model of regional government, namely, economic independence, which would make it possible to extricate the oblast's national economic sectors from the crisis, was born in the latter half of 1992. Approximately 200 of the best minds, not just of our region, embarked on this work. About 40 academic higher educational institutions and research and planning institutes were plugged into this effort. A comprehensive program of social and economic development for the Donbass was prepared in a very short space of time. It passed expert evaluation at all levels and gained high marks. It seemed that the life of our region would now be running in a different channel, in which, thanks to the region's independence, industrial potential and agricultural and, what is most important, social potential would begin to operate anew.

"But today our program is 'spinning its wheels,'" V.L. Nakonechnyy, first deputy chief of the oblast administration and president of the Foundation for the Support of Progressive Reforms, said at a news conference. "Kiev is still reluctant to give the regions even a piece of independence, which would enable us to resolve our problems ourselves. All our hopes are 'drowning' in offices of the capital, where people are keeping a firm hold on power. We, however, want just one thing—give each region its rights, and each region should live on its own earnings. These are normal living conditions in world practice...."

For the comprehensive program to start to work it is essential that today the Supreme Council adopt a whole number of legislative documents. Its old composition is not that ready to agree to this. For this reason the Foundation for the Support of Progressive Reforms has resolved to form in the course of the present parliamentary elections its own team which undertakes to finish what has been started. The developers of the program have nominated candidates for deputy....

In the course of the news conference V.L. Nakonechnyy and I.P. Navka, executive director of the Foundation, told journalists how introduction of the program is being promoted, for all that. There are already potential investors, who will invest money in a restructuring of the economy of the Donbass. And nothing would be holding them back were there a law both protecting the investors' money and determining regional independence. But Kiev does not have the time for this. It does not want to understand that only strong regions will benefit Ukraine.

Zaporozhe Plant First Reactor Shut Down

LD2203184294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The first reactor of a nuclear power plant in Zaporozhe (Ukraine) switched off at 8:32 local time on March 22. As a plant spokesman has reported to Interfax, the reactor disconnected after the safety system was effected by the separation of two circular pumps, supplying water to cool off a turbine capacitor.

In his words, to bring down pressure, steam was released into the atmosphere from pipelines, and the discharge was accompanied by persistent noise. He described the incident as not being dangerous for the plant's personnel or the environment.

An investigation is underway. The level of radiation at the nuclear plant has not changed.

As has been reported, the station's third reactor was switched off at 13:37 local time on Monday by the warning safety device but was switched on again five hours later.

Official Says Nuclear Power Fulfilling Task

LD2203200494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Alexey Petrunya—TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 22 TASS—Despite the current economic difficulties, Ukrainian nuclear power engineering is fulfilling its major task of supplying electricity to consumers, chairman of the Ukrainian state committee for nuclear energy uses Mikhail Umanets told a briefing here today.

In 1993 Ukrainian nuclear power plants produced 75,238 million kilowatt/hours, which is 33 percent of the overall Ukrainian electricity output, he said. The electricity production amounted to 111 percent of the planned targets.

In the words of Umanets, there were no accidents at nuclear power plants in 1993, although there were some malfunctions eleven of which were estimated as the first level and one—second on the international nuclear accident scale.

A radical factor for the development of Ukrainian nuclear power engineering is a resolution of the parliament to cancel moratorium on construction of new units of nuclear power plants and further operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, said the official. The resolution provides for the postponed termination of Chernobyl plant halt with due account of technical and radiation safety.

A major problem of Ukrainian nuclear power engineering remains fuel, which Ukrainian nuclear power plants continue to receive from Russia. Ukrainian scientists and specialists have been instructed to create national fuel.

Belarus

Perry Meets With Defense, Prime Ministers

WS2303115694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Today, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry arrived in Minsk on a one-day official visit. The businesslike relations of military partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the United States began to take shape in 1992. The first steps on this path were taken during the visit to the United States by Alyaksandr Tushyoski, first deputy defense minister of the Republic of Belarus. By then, an agreement on dealing with the aftermath of an emergency situation and the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction was signed between our two countries. Belarusian and U.S. military specialists are discussing the relative directions of military cooperation, including such issues as conversion, control over the export of radioactive materials, the training of servicemen, and the creation of working groups to coordinate military cooperation.

William Perry was received today by Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy and Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Later in the day, the U.S. secretary of defense will visit the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

It is planned that the visit will result in the signing of a joint agreement on the principles of a Belarusian-U.S. committee for conversion.

Defense Conversion Discussed

LD2303120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondents Vladimir Glod and Leonid Tratnevskiy]

[Text] Minsk March 23 TASS—Official talks between the defence ministers of the United States and the Belarus Republic began here today. The U.S. secretary of defence arrived in the Belarus capital today. His negotiations with Colonel-General Pavel Kazlowski are proceeding behind closed doors.

"One of the main subjects that will be discussed during the meeting is American aid to solve Belarusian conversion problems," First Deputy Defence Minister of the Belarus Republic Aleksandr Tushinskiy told BELINFORM. Tushinskiy is a prominent electronics specialist and first civilian appointed to the leadership of the republic's Defence Ministry. He is charged with the task of switching the defence industry to civilian rails.

Tushinskiy said that Perry is expected to announce some Belarus- American conversion programmes, covering such Belarusian defence enterprises as "Belomo" and "Intergral." As a result of a tough contest carried out in the United States, several American partner firms have been selected for them, whose technologies, know-how and other parameters coincide with those of the Minsk plants. "During the American secretary's visit," Tushinskiy said, "we expect to sign a joint statement on the principles that will underlie the work of the Belarus-American conversion committee. An organisational meeting of this body will also be held."

Tushinskiy stressed that this committee was set up as a result of previous Belarus-American meetings at top level and after repeated consultations between expert delegations of the two countries.

The final results of the talks will become known today afternoon during a press conference that will be held here jointly by the U.S. secretary of defence and the Belarus defence minister.

Cabinet Sets Value of Privatization Checks

WS2303094494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2050 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has established the nominal cost of the personalized privatization checks, the so-called property, which will be distributed to Belarusian citizen beginning on 1 April. [Words indistinct] 1 January 1994, one cheque is estimated at 25,000 Belarusian rubles. Not too much.

Kebich Closes 'Several Ministries'

LD2203131594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich signed a government ordinance Tuesday, closing down several ministries and agencies and reducing the personnel in central government headquarters.

On the other hand, numerous state committees such as foreign trade, economy and planning, state property management and privatization and ecology had been promoted to ministries.

Under the ordinance, more that 12 percent of all central executive personnel will be made redundant as of May 20. This ordinance does not apply to the Foreign, Justice, Natural Resources and Environment Protection Ministries and Youth and Land Reform. The government also called on the regional and Minsk executives to cut their personnel by 10 percent.

Hryb Splits Deputies' Duties; Credit Limits Set

LD2303111094 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 0942 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus, has signed an order on the division of duties between his deputies. V. Kuznyatsow, the first deputy head of parliament coordinates the work of seven standing commissions (for economic reform, industry, international affairs and foreign economic relations,

state construction, and national security). I. Bambiza coordinates the work of six standing commissions (planning, budget, finance, Chernobyl disaster problems, agrarian issues, nationalities policy, and CIS affairs). U. Rusakevich coordinates the work of six standing commissions, including humanitarian and cultural affairs, ecology, and rational use of resources.

The Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution that limits the credit emission for the first six months to 1.9 trillion rubles and in the second half to 0.5 trillion rubles.

Leftist Leader Assesses Current Situation

WS2203133094 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 17 Mar 94 p 4

[Interview with Valeriy Tikhinya, leader of the People's Movement of Belarus parliamentary faction, by Igor Gukovskiy; place and date not given: "We Need Social Guarantees, Union With Russia, and Yuriy Andropov as President"—first paragraph is RESPUBLIKA introduction.]

[Excerpts] Valeriy Tikhinya is a famous person in Belarus. He was once a minister of justice and a secretary of the Communist Party of Belarus [KPB] Central Committee. He is one of those few people who remain faithful to their beliefs, despite all transitory trends. Currently, Valeriy Guryevich heads the People's Movement of Belarus [NDB] Supreme Soviet faction. He has recently met with a RESPUBLIKA correspondent. [passage omitted]

[Gukovskiy]You are the leader of the NDB's deputy faction. How do you, and your colleagues, assess the current political and economic situation in Belarus?

[Tikhinya] Serious changes have recently taken place—society has become more leftist. Left-centrist forces have consolidated under the NDB's roof. The Belarusian Popular Front [BNF], which is rapidly losing people's confidence, is agonizing. This was confirmed by the events that took place in February—the failed attempt to turn society upside-down. The tide of nationalist frenzy is receding.

Complex and contradictory processes are under way in the Belarusian economy which, in my opinion, is inertly falling, but has not yet hit bottom, and I doubt it will do so this year. Over the last two years, the GDP has fallen by more than 20 percent, which has been an unprecedented decline. The Belarusian economy could not endure senseless experiments, and as a result, Belarus has joined the undeveloped countries of the world.

The social gap continues to widen—the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. According to the Institute of Sociology Data, two thirds of Belarusian citizens currently live on the brink of poverty. Biological survival has become the main problem for many people....

[Gukovskiy]What do you propose?

[Tikhinya] To start with, the entire path we have gone through should be analyzed, and our ailing economy should be diagnosed. After that, a program for overcoming the crisis should be worked out. Today, we resemble a passenger of a train, the engineer of which does not know where he is going.

[Gukovskiy]When did the engineer lose touch with reality?

[Tikhinya] At the first stage of Gorbachev's so-called perestroyka, approximately at the end of 1990. As Goethe said, we admitted that the idea was useful, but we failed to wisely implement it. Although we accepted the idea of market economy, we have not managed to put it into practice so far.

There should be a comprehensive concept of action for implementing market reforms. We should proceed toward the market economy on an evolutionary path, beginning with the sector of economy that is prepared most adequately for this. In this regard, I totally support the Kebich government, despite the fact that it sometimes fails to consistently proceed on this path. Gaydarization and shock therapy are not for us.

Our economic course should be thoroughly corrected. I am not speaking about this accidentally. Addressing the Supreme Soviet session after his election, [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Mechyslaw Hryb stated that Belarus' course, including implementation of economic reforms, had not been changed. I cannot agree with this. Reforms that lead the people toward impoverishment are worth nothing, and it is evident that the people are being robbed. I have in mind not only the "burst" savings in the Saving Bank. During the tenure of [former Supreme Soviet Chairman] Stanislav Shushkevich, social guarantees, which had been won in preceding years, were systematically and gradually liquidated.

I believe that there are at least three preconditions for coming out of the crisis: overcoming the powerlessness of authorities, joining an economic union with Russia, and mounting the battle against crime.

[Gukovskiy]Where, in your opinion, does the powerlessness of authorities lie—in its insufficient powers or low professional skills?

[Tikhinya] Until recently, the main reason lay in the lack of powers. The parliament, however, has recently granted additional powers to the Cabinet of Ministers. Therefore, the personnel issue has now come into prominence. [Prime Minister] Vyacheslav Kebich's attempts to reorganize the government deserve approval.

The second necessary precondition, as I have already said, is an economic union with Russia. We need it, as we need air, and the establishment of a common ruble zone should be the first step in this direction.

The third precondition for overcoming the crisis is the battle against crime. Corrupted Mafia rings have infiltrated state structures, which was vividly confirmed by the evidence collected by the committee headed by Deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka. This comes as no surprise, since there still is no state program for combating crime.

Crimes against property currently amount to 75 percent of all felonies. When I was the attorney of the Minsk Leninskiy rayon, this figure did not exceed 25 percent. However, this is not strange at all, given the out-of-control price hikes. A man is tempted into committing a crime if he has nothing to eat, even under the threat of harsh punishment. Improvement of the situation depends on how quickly can we improve the economic situation.

[Gukovskiy]**The NDB is composed of various parties and organizations, in terms of their viewpoint on the future economic development of Belarus. I understand that an accord is possible in politics to achieve common goals and tasks at a certain stage. How, however, is the NDB going to work out a common economic program? Are you going to create a hybrid made of contradictory economic viewpoints? Will it not lead to an even more abnormal and abominable experiment?**

[Tikhiniya] The NDB will discuss its economic program at its next congress, which will probably be held after the economic union with Russia is concluded. I hope that we will not have to wait too long. There will be no hybrid. We will collectively discuss a draft program on which our specialists have already begun to work. I believe that it will be based on the communists' program. In general, all organizations forming the NDB agree that the people should be returned what they have been deprived of, and that we should build a welfare economy. This conforms to a constitutional provision on building a welfare state.

[Gukovskiy]**The deputies' corps voted for introducing the presidential office in Belarus. Shortly before that, NDB leader Syarhey Haydukevich had stated in an interview with our paper that the movement is for a parliamentary republic. Did the NDB have not enough votes to block the parliament's decision, or did you simply change your mind at the last moment?**

[Tikhiniya] We are indeed able to block any decision requiring a constitutional majority. Having analyzed this issue on the eve of voting, the majority of us finally decided to vote for introducing presidency. Although I conformed to the majority, I still believe that we have not taken advantage of all possibilities of a parliamentary republic. On the other hand, given the current disorder, the introduction of the presidency can become the effective means of strengthening the executive branch that we have spoken of. It should be kept in mind, however, that the presidency can also lead Belarus to an authoritarian rule. Therefore, following the introduction of this office, we should immediately work out a whole range of limits and counterweights. We should, for example, stipulate that the president is not entitled to dissolve the Supreme Soviet, etc.

[Gukovskiy] **What sort of a man, in your opinion, should the Belarusian president be?**

[Tikhiniya] Speaking about a political leader, it should be somebody like Petr Masherov [former first secretary of the KPB]. Speaking about a state leader, I would name Yuriy Andropov [former first secretary of the CPSU]—Belarus needs exactly this sort of a man today.

[Gukovskiy]**What can you say about chances of specific politicians in the presidential elections? Whom will the NDB field or support?**

[Tikhiniya] Our coordinative committee has not yet discussed this issue. I, personally, believe that either Lukashenka or Kebich can become candidates of left-wing forces' bloc. Perhaps other people will appear. The right wing, in my opinion, will present as its candidates Karpenko [leader of the Party of People's Accord], Shushkevich, Tarazevich, and, probably, [BNF leader] Paznyak; the latter, however, has rather poor chances, as a very loathsome individual.

[Gukovskiy]**How did Tarazevich, former Supreme Soviet chairman of the Belarusian Socialist Soviet Republic, end up on the right flank?**

[Tikhiniya] It is hard for me to answer this question. I only admit the fact.

[Gukovskiy]**Are you going to run for the presidency?**

[Tikhiniya] According to the draft legislation on presidential elections, either 70 votes of people's deputies or 100,000 signatures of voters is required to register a candidate. The NDB will try to present only one candidate. If my candidacy is put forward, I will run. Today, all I can say is that I will run for a parliamentary seat.

Liberal Democrats Aim at 'United Slavic State'

WS2203144294 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 16 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Belarus, the Specter of Zhirinovskiy Has Mutated Into the Independent Party"]

[Text] Alyaksandr Leshka, former first deputy of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, has told our newspaper that the Liberal Democratic Party of Belarus [LDPB] has been finally registered. The party has about 4,000 members. Its largest branches are in Minsk, Homel, and Vitsebsk. The Belarusian liberal democrats are closely cooperating with the Party of People's Accord, and they are going to actively participate in the parliamentary elections. The main goal of the LDPB is to establish a united Slavic state composed of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Signing of Monetary Merger 'Likely before April'

WS2203192694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Unattributed report: "On Merging Money Systems"]

[Text] A BELAPAN correspondent has been told by Uladzimir Zamyatalin, press secretary of Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, that an agreement on the monetary merger is likely to be signed before 1 April. He also said that Nikolay Ganchar, member of the Council of the Federation, who deals with the issues of CIS financial and credit relations within the Russian parliament, will arrive in Minsk on 23 March. According to Zamyatalin, during his visit, the Belarusian Government is planning to learn "first hand" about the meeting of the Chernomyrdin government on the merger of the monetary systems which is to be held on 22 March.

Joint Project To Build Domestic Aircraft Planned

WS2303104894 Minsk RID in Russian 1950 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by Andrey Yanchuk: "Does It Cost Us Much To Build 'Belarus'?"]

[Text] RID has learned from well-informed sources that an active project is under way to create a domestic aviation industry with the participation of the Belarusian Ministry of Defense. Agreements on joint cooperation to create an aircraft named "Belarus" have been signed with the Chief Directorate of Goskom for Military Branches of the Russian Federation; Kazakhstan's Ministry of Industry and Chief Directorate of Civil Aviation; the "Aviaprom" joint stock company; the Moscow Aviation Production Amalgamation; the State Scientific Research Institute of Civil Aviation; and a number of other organizations. When and where will this take place? According to specialists, domestic aircraft can be built at existing Belarusian aviation repair facilities and related aeronautical enterprises. However, there was no mention of a concrete schedule as to when this attractive project may actually be fulfilled.

Moldova

Yeltsin Envoy Cites 'Time for Pragmatism'

LD2103201494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Vladilen Vasev, a Russian presidential envoy on the Transdniester conflict met in Chisinau Monday with the head of the CSCE mission in Moldova Richard Samuels. Before that he had two days of meetings with the leaders of the self-proclaimed Transdniester republic in its capital Tiraspol.

The envoy refrained from comments on the results of his meetings. However, in an interview with Interfax he said consultations would resume in a matter of days.

According to Vasev, a time for pragmatism is beginning. Both Chisinau and Tiraspol realize that there is a political solution is the only way to settle the problem. [sentence as received] He said that Russia has its own interests there, in particular the protection of the rights of the Russian community, which is why it is ready to promote in every way the settlement of the conflict in the Dniester River valley so that political stability would finally be reached in Moldova.

Presents Russian Proposal

AU2203185894 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] During the series of talks held last week in Chisinau and Tiraspol, Vladimir Vasev, special representative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in charge of eliminating dissent in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, handed over to authorities in Chisinau and the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic the proposals of the leadership of the Russian Federation intended to politically settle the conflict.

According to our Chisinau correspondent citing ITAR-TASS agency, the Moscow proposals stipulate the establishment of a special Dniester region with an own executive power, an elected assembly, and a court of justice. The special region is to be an inalienable part of the Republic of Moldova, but it will bestowed with an important degree of self-administration.

The document also stipulates that in case the Republic of Moldova decides to renounce its statehood and unite with another country, the Dniester region is to be granted the right to self-determination.

Russian Role Viewed

PM2303103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Russian Mediators Suggest Kishinev Give Dniester Region Broad Autonomy"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] —Kishinev and Tiraspol are prepared to put on the negotiations table counterdrafts of documents on the future of the Dniester Region. Vladilen Vasev, the Russian president's official representative, has come to Moldova with a package of proposals on this question: Russia will take part in the talks as a mediator.

Although each delegation has its own documents prepared, they are in no hurry to make them public. All that is known is that the CSCE recommendations will be put at the basis of the talks to determine the political status of Moldavia's [Moldova's] Eastern regions. Kishinev, according to President Mircea Snegur, is prepared to grant the Dniester Region "broad powers" but people there, at least at the level of official statements, still agree only to confederation.

Vladlen Vasev, answering an IZVESTIYA correspondent's question about what specifically the Russian side had brought to the talks, noted that the content of the documents he had brought with him comes down to the idea of "broad autonomy" for the Dniester Region within the framework of a single state.

In the CSCE recommendations one can discern the "Crimean option" for resolving the Dniester conflict. Kishinev rejects this option because it fears separatist movements and the region's withdrawal from the state. Promising to include in the future law on the status of the Dniester Region guarantees in the event of the republic's loss of its statehood, official Kishinev believes that is enough. Actually, the Dniester Region authorities are also manipulating the people's opinion, citing the results of a referendum in favor of their own statehood.

Both sides hope to benefit from Russia's mediation. The Dniester Region is sure that Russia's participation in the talks is a guarantee that the region's interests will be protected. Moldavia is counting on using the Russian side's aid to push Tiraspol toward compromise.

Gagauz Region Requests Right to Self-Determination

AU2303123494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2116 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/3/1994—The efforts used to persuade the South [area inhabited by the Gagauz ethnic minority] to take part in the [27 February parliamentary] elections in exchange for the solution of the Gagauz problem has unpleasant consequences for Chisinau's official policy, states reporter Val Butnaru in a political commentary in weekly OBSERVATORUL DE CHISINAU (CHISINAU OBSERVER.) Given that [Prime Minister Nicolae] Sangheli and [Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova Chairman Dumitru] Motpan have encouraged the elections in the South, the Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova [PDAM] now has to pay some electoral bills. A last week appeal of Comrat [capital of the Gagauz region] to the Chisinau Parliament says that 85.4 percent of the electors in Gagauz regions "have pleaded for the development of the Gagauz Republic as a national-territorial formation within the Republic of Moldova." Comrat hopes that "representatives of the PDAM and of the Block of the Socialist Party and the Unitate-Edinstvo Movement, which has the majority in the new parliament, as well as the 17 March official declarations made by [Moldovan President] Mircea Snegur and Andrei Sangheli will ease the solution of the problem of the self-determination of regions mostly inhabited by the Gagauz." The session of the Gagauz Parliament adopted on 14 March a declaration that opts for the "recognition of the Gagauz Republic as a national-territorial formation as component of Moldova, and the legalization in the new [Moldovan] Constitution of the principle of the republic's federalization." Snegur had repeatedly opposed this principle. One of the PDAM leaders, Aurel Talmaci, declared that the agrarians will only support the idea of a special status for the southern regions. Petru Lucinschi [speaker of Moldova's Parliament] declared before the elections that "we should not be afraid of the word 'federalization,' as it does not mean yet the republic's dismemberment." The opposition does not feel responsible for the solution of the Gagauz problem. It considers anti-constitutional the inclusion of the supplementary question about the Gagauz' statehood into the bulletins of the 6 March poll.

Neutrality Rejected, Integration With West Sought

AU2303123694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2116 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/3/1994—At this moment all Russian forces, from Yeltsin to Zhirinovskiy, have met on the same anti-Western platform, states the journalist Petru Bogatu in the weekly TARA (THE COUNTRY.) The Kremlin is frankly claiming its sphere of influence in eastern and central Europe, where Russians think that Washington has nothing to do. Under such circumstances, the Chisinau officials plead for neutrality; this gesture is equivalent to "an act of national suicide," the quoted source asserts. President Snegur signs the adherence to the NATO program Partnership for Peace, and then tells Moscow, Tiraspol, and Comrat that this "will not make the Republic of Moldova orient itself toward the West and that it will remain a neutral state." The adherence to the Partnership for Peace requests the abandoning of the neutral policy in the prospect of gradual integration in European military structures. The Romanian space has always sought a support in the West, and when it could not find one, it had losses: An example is the loss of Bessarabia and Transylvania by [Romania's King] Carol II in 1940. In the situation when both sides want the expansion of their territory of influence, "our incorporation into the free world" is mandatory. Otherwise, the present state of this territory will degenerate in a free fall into the chasm of history, the author believes.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Addresses British Institute in London

LD2203213094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Voronkov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] London March 22 TASS—The key task at present is preservation of peace through the establishment of a global system of responsibility. This calls for working out new principles of a world order in which both developed and developing countries are interested, according to President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who presented his vision of the world process to an audience at the British Institute of International Relations on Wednesday.

The world process is now passing through a crisis following the collapse of the former socialist system, Nazarbayev said.

He said the development of the post-Soviet space was determined by two tendencies. On the one hand, national states continue to take shape, and on the other these new independent states tend towards integration within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

From the Kazakh leader's viewpoint, time is now ripe for reforming the commonwealth with a view to creating a belt of stability and security in the region and upgrading the degree of predictability of its political evolution.

A renovated commonwealth will then be able to play a stabilizing role in averting or regulating possible conflicts in the region after creating collective peacekeeping forces.

This would in turn strengthen substantially the system of global security, Nazarbayev predicted.

Kazakhstan, jointly with other commonwealth countries and first of all with Russia, is already contributing to the process. "We consider ourselves to be part of Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, but we are also aware of our responsibility for the preservation of stability and security in the entire region," the president stressed.

"In analyzing processes underway in our country, one should not cherish the illusion that we are ready to draw exclusively on the system of values worked out in the West. Kazakhstan, just as the other commonwealth countries, is passing through a stage of transition, and the world must understand that this stage is characterized by a lengthy evolution of all institutes, first of all political. The collapse of a totalitarian system does not automatically lead to a market economy and a full-scale democracy. We have to effect modernization in society and the state," the president said.

Kazakhstan is one of the few former Soviet republics in which stability has prevailed in recent years, which enables it to confidently pursue its economic reform course, Nazarbayev said.

The recent elections to the parliament and local governments undoubtedly were a success of Kazakhstan's nascent democracy, he said.

Many countries and international financial organisations have commented on the substantial headway made by Kazakhstan in its switch to a market economy, and its commitment to large-scale privatisation, reforms and macro-economic stabilization, Nazarbayev recalled.

Speaking about priorities in his country's foreign policy President Nazarbayev pointed to three basic factors. The first one is that Kazakhstan last year joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—an historic step because the republic voluntarily assumed the obligation to eliminate all nuclear weapons on its territory.

Another factor is Kazakhstan's geopolitical position which makes it necessary for the country to stick to a multi-polar foreign political orientation.

Nazarbayev said his country is prepared to become a centre for strengthening security on the Asian continent. This problem has acquired a huge significance in the region which is plagued by numerous armed conflicts and ranks second after Europe in concentration of armed forces and nuclear arms.

Nazarbayev reminded his audience that he had proposed in the United Nations a plan for the gradual creation of a single collective security system for Asia. The first step in this direction can be made by convening a conference on interaction and confidence-building in Asia, similar to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The president said that one of the basic tasks in the foreign political sphere is "the creation of a belt of confidence and good-neighborliness" along the entire perimeter of Kazakhstan.

The third factor is connected with membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States. "I was and remain a supporter of historically-shaped relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding, which have been linking our peoples through the centuries of our common history", he stressed.

Kazakhstan consistently supports the idea of economic integration within the commonwealth, but there can be no question about a return to the past since each republic made its final and irrevocable choice in favour of their sovereign development. The Commonwealth of Independent States is not a state in itself, not a national entity but a natural mechanism of regional interaction in the

present conditions. "We rely first of all on the development of age- old traditional ties with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzia, Turkmenia and Tajikistan and attach the greatest significance to cooperation with Russia," the president stressed.

The system of global responsibility calls for a policy aimed at reducing the number of nuclear powers and ensuring regional stability based on reasonable compromise and consensus. This is a policy Kazakhstan is committed to, Nazarbayev said.

Interviewed in London

PM1303094994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 1

[Pavel Bogomolov report on interview with Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in London on 22 March: "Reliance on Names Is Wrong"]

[Text] Whether the topic of discussion is Russia or any other CIS country, the main point right now is to support first and foremost not names or personalities but the direction of the reforms and the democracy which actually meet the requirements of our development. This is what I endeavored to tell our British partners in the current meetings and talks on the banks of the Thames, Republic of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed in a brief interview with PRAVDA.

Answering my question about the extent to which official London is interested in the effect of the "Russian factor" on the situation in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, the high-ranking guest from Alma-Ata [Almaty] noted that this question is not very indicative of current moods in Whitehall. The British leadership is making no secret of the fact that in recent days the spectrum of its priority interests has noticeably shifted in the direction of the conflicting opinions and political priorities in Moscow's corridors of power, and of general forecasts concerning the immediate future of the vast part of the planet which only recently was a united Union.

In this context, Nazarbayev stated later on, I have already said many times what I want to repeat now: Yes, we need very close integration. Integration which is real and lasting, unlike now. Incidentally, the CIS must eventually become different from what it is now. Not loose and amorphous but highly effective, in line with the scale of the tasks facing all of us.

Ends Visit To Britain

LD2303110194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 23 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London March 23 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has concluded his official British visit.

The Kazakh president held negotiations with Prime Minister John Major, had a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II, made a speech before representatives of business circles and conversed with editors-in-chief of British leading newspapers.

The sides signed a number of important bilateral agreements, among which are the joint declaration of friendship and mutual understanding, the agreement on cooperation in education, science and culture, the joint declaration of economic cooperation, the convention on prevention of double taxation, the agreement on air transportation, the declaration of cooperation between the foreign ministries.

On Wednesday Nursultan Nazarbayev left for Spain.

Nazarbayev Decrees Crackdown on Crime

PM2203165394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Sergey Skorokhodov from "Neighboring Foreign States" roundup: "Kazakhstan—Morals Will Be Policed"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Kazakhstan's government pins great hopes on the legal reform program adopted recently by President N. Nazarbayev.

According to State Counselor K. Suleymenov, there are fewer burglars, thiefs, and muggers in the republic now, but more...call girls and racketeers. Crime has become an economy and a business. Passive work on the part of the internal affairs organs, the state counselor believes, is the main reason why organized forms of crime have started to flourish in the republic. "Unfortunately, gangs have established a strong foothold in our country."

In view of this Kazakhstan's president signed a decree on stepping up the fight against crime. It provides for the creation of special investigative groups comprising staffers from the Prosecutor's Office and the National Security Committee which will fight organized crime. Moreover, the president adopted a decision to set up a tax militia. Henceforth in Kazakhstan, instead of the notorious LTP's [occupational therapy rehabilitation centers], LPU's—preventive treatment establishments—will come into operation under the Ministry of Health. Moreover, in view of the decline of moral standards, a morals militia will come into being. Among other things, it will deal with the morality of the press.

Record Snowfalls Delay Launch of Spacecraft

LD2203131094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1157 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—Record heavy snow have practically paralysed the Baykonur space launching

site in Kazakhstan and 500 soldiers were daily working to clean the roads and railways leading to the launching pads.

The snow thickness varied from four to eight metres and local residents said nothing of the kind had occurred at least during the last ten years.

The snow delayed the launch of the Progress-22 cargo space craft by three days and the blast off which took place on Tuesday became possible thanks to two snow-cleaning trains despatched to the Baykonur Cosmodrome by the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The snow storm hit the launching site on March 4 and two self-propelled railway cars with military personnel were "imprisoned" by it for 24 hours. Available snow cleaning equipment failed to cope with the task and servicemen at the cosmodrome had to use ordinary spades to clean railway tracks.

Besides, a fire ruined on March 7 a part of the premises situated close to the testing ground where the "Progress" was, however the blaze was not the reason for the delay in the blast off.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Addresses Nation on Navruz Festival

LD2203225994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1700 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Address by Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev to the people of Kyrgyzstan on the Navruz festival on 21 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, I sincerely congratulate you on Navruz festival. I wish happiness, prosperity, and peace to you and to your families. This is the Muslim holiday of the New Year, which has centuries old traditions and has been traditionally celebrained by the Asiatic people. It symbolizes renewal of nature [word indistinct]. People pin their hopes for the better future on Navruz festival. Philosophy and ethics of Navruz are based on the ideas of victory of kindness over evil, life over death. At this important transitional time of our history. Our people turn their eyes towards spiritual and cultural sources trying to gather strength so as to continue [word indistinct].

At this difficult time of our history, we are now reassessing some of the old spiritual values. Celebration of Navruz, is the sign of firmness of the eternal values: peace, friendship, and labor. Reforms that we have started a few years ago are aimed at building the society where everyone will get the chance of fulfilling himself and securing adequate life for himself and for his family. All of us should understand that prosperity of every member of our society would result in the prosperity of the state. This should become our state policy. We have made the first steps in building our state. We have adopted the Constitution, created the legal basis for its functioning, and introduced the national currency. Now we are facing a task of taking some other steps on this path. This is not possible without your support and understanding. The most important thing for us to understand is that we, by working hard, can overcome the difficulties.

I have signed a number of decrees aimed at strengthening financial discipline and upgrading tax system and combatting crime and land reform. I believe that only discipline and order on the one hand and freedom on the other will compliment each other and lead to success. We are doing everything so as [word indistinct] and setting firmly on the path of socio-economic and spiritual development. We can overcome all these difficulties provided we act in accordance with the best Navruz traditions during which wars are banned, people tend to forgive each other for mistakes. We are optimistic about the future of our land.

Kyrgyzstan has all the conditions and means for achieving the set tasks. And the main of them is the intellectual potential which has been accumulated by our nation during all these years.

We will change life for better. There will be day when every house and every family will be prosperous and certain of its tomorrow. I believe that Kyrgyzstanis, when celebrating this holiday, will remember the noble traditions of their ancestors and consolidate principles of unity, accord, and peace that have been proclaimed at the kurultay of the people of Kyrgyzstan and strengthen by this friendship, fraternity, and cooperation between people of Kyrgyzstan. We have achieved a lot on this path, and it's our task to continue the kind traditions of our ancestors. Let the spirit of the festival of all the times and nations of Asia give us [words indistinct]. Dear compatriots, I congratulate you on Navruz festival, I wish you happiness and peace. Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan.

Akayev on Ethnic Issues, Neighbour Relations

MK2203135094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Mar 94 pp 1,3

[Report by Igor Rotar under the "Interlocutor" rubric: Askar Akayev Likes NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and Is Tolerant of Criticism"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During our nearly two-hour conversation, the Kyrgyzstan president managed to shake my skepticism somewhat about the future of Russians in his country. Sadly, my interlocutor asked me not to turn on the tape recorder: "Let it be an unofficial conversation, and you will write an article after you have traveled around our country."

Yet I managed, not without difficulty, to secure Askar Akayevich's consent to publish excerpts from our conversation.

Akayev believes that Kyrgyzstan is vitally interested in a comfortable existence of the Russian ethnic minority not out of only purely humanist considerations. In its ethnic composition, Kyrgyzstan differs appreciably from the other Central Asian states where Slavs account for a relatively small share (some 10 percent) of the country's population. Tranquillity in Kyrgyzstan rests on a precarious ethnic balance between the three most numerous peoples of the state: Kyrgyz (nearly 50 percent), Uzbeks (more than 10 percent), Russians and Ukrainians (nearly 25 percent). In this ethnic "crucible" the Slavic component fulfills the role of a stabilizer that maintains relations of harmony between the peoples. A massive outflow of Slavic people would tip the ethnic balance in the republic, and the probability of interethnic clashes would grow sharply. [passage omitted]

The main reason for the Slav emigration is a low living standard. The Kyrgyz leader thinks that Western countries have proven in practice totally indifferent to such notions as democracy and freedom of speech, and prefer to invest money in countries that bring profit. "We are being helped only by America and Japan; as for Europe, I do not visit it," Askar Akayev added with sadness. As for Kyrgyzstan's neighbors, which have much richer natural resources, they are securing credits all over the world.

The other important specific feature in the life of Kyrgyzstan's Slavs is that, unlike their fellow Slavs in the other Central Asia states, most of them work for defense. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, virtually all workers of the military-industrial complex have been left without a job. The Kyrgyz president puts great hopes on an understanding with Boris Yeltsin on creating an investment fund to turn the enterprises where Slavs work into joint enterprises. "This would finally provide jobs for our Slavs, and they would not be leaving for Russia," Askar Akayev said.

Finally, there is the dual-citizenship problem. In the president's view, it can be only granted to local Slavs and Germans. The granting of dual citizenship to Uzbeks and Tajiks would, Askar Akayev thinks, lead to unpredictable consequences. The Kyrgyz president reminded me that Tajikistan had made territorial claims on his country not so long ago. If one grants dual citizenship to Tajiks, who densely populate areas close to the Tajikistan border, there would actually be no avoiding a territorial division.

A similar problem also exists in Osh Oblast, with a dense Uzbek population that borders on Uzbekistan. Askar Akayev admitted that in Uzbekistan, too, there are certain forces interested in a revision of borders. A similar problem also exists in northern Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz president appreciates Nursultan Nazarbayev's stance very well. Akayev thinks that the best solution in such situations is bilateral agreements to guarantee an immediate granting of citizenship when one changes the country of residence or decides to go back. Let me note that Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, who visited Moscow last week, came up with almost the same initiative.

To the "provoking" question from your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent: "What forces in Uzbekistan are interested in territorial division when all power in the neighbor state is in the hands of one person—Islam Karimov?," Askar Akayev replied: "Islam Karimov holds a very constructive position, and we have no differences on this question. However, this problem has always been there—both before Karimov, Nazarbayev, Niyazov, Rakhmonov, Akayev, and their time, and it will remain after them. We should be very cautious about provoking a catastrophe."

Iranian Publication Center Opened in Bishkek

LD2203104294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Simultaneous with the start of the New Year, the first publication center, which is also a center for displaying and selling books and periodicals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was opened in Bishkek, the capital city of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. At the opening ceremony, attended by the ministers of press, culture and education, and also the Muslims' muftis [religious leader] and a large group of the Kyrgyz people, our country's Education Ministry adviser and the managing director of the Al-Hoda international publications, said in a speech: Islam and the Iranian culture are the most important factors in the cultural link between the two countries. The attraction of Islamic culture and civilization is the reason for the interest shown by the people of Central Asia in our country's culture.

The press minister of Kyrgyzstan, referring to the fact that this center is the first cultural center of a foreign country opening in Kyrgyzstan, termed it as an important linking bridge between Kyrgyzstan and Iran.

Armenia

Mutalibov Blames Aliyev for Karabakh Conflict

NC2203213994 Yerevan SNARK in English 1253 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, March 22 (SNARK)—As it has become known to SNARK from unofficial sources, the former Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov, drawn to criminal liability by the present Baku authorities, is compelled to hide himself in one of the Russian cities.

A source close to Mutalibov's surrounding told SNARK that the ex-president considers Geydar Aliyev as main guilty person in Karabakh conflict. He claimed that Aliyev, while being the First Secretary of Azerbaijan Communist Party, pursued a policy of human rights infringement among the national minorities living in the republic: of Lezghins, Kurds, Talishes, Tats, Avars, and of Armenians. This policy resulted in the open confrontation.

Escape from the crisis is seen by Mutalibov in account of interests of all national minorities living in Azerbaijan, namely in federalization of political system in the republic, with whom he never cut off his relations while living outside.

Speaking about the Karabakh war, Mutalibov observed that it is lost due to policy of illegal, as he thinks, presidents Elchibey and Aliyev, who for the sake of their own ambitions had cast their people into a real slaughter.

Karabakh Quiet Disrupted by Azerbaijani Attacks

NC2203214594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1646 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Stepanakert, March 22 (SNARK)—On March 22, after morning quietness, in the second part of the day, Azerbaijani troops intensively shelled the position of the Karabakh Defence Army at the south-western part of the Karabakh front. After that, according to the press-center of the Karabakh Defence Army, the enemy tried to break through the defence of Karabakh forces in the direction of Martuni City.

By midday the attacks of Azerbaijani troops were mainly beaten off.

According to data, received by 6pm, battles at this part of the front got positioning character [as received].

Commission To Investigate 'Top Officials'

NC2303071594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1609 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 22 (SNARK)—The Armenian Foreign Ministry has given a range of criminal cases that are supposed to be connected with jobs' abusement of some top officials of the republic to the Office of Prosecutor. The Armenian General Prosecutor Artavazd Gevorkyan told about the fact at the session of the temporary parliamentary commission created for investigating these cases.

"These are not simple criminal cases because they are connected with activities of some officials. An investigation will figure them out," Mr.Gevorkyan said.

The temporary parliamentary commission was created after some statements of the Home Minister Vano Siradegyan, the former Chief Advisor of the President on National Security Ashot Manucharyan and other persons. It will work till June 1. Its main aim is to control activity of special investigating group of the prosecutor's office. As the Commission Chairman Agasi Arshakyan said today, the conclusion and findings of the commission will be presented to deputies.

Parliament Approves 1994 Budget

MK2203124094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 5

[Gamlet Matevosyan report from Yerevan under the "Armenia" rubric: "Parliament Approves 1994 Budget, but Rejects Government Program for the Republic's Socioeconomic Development"]

[Text] After a lengthy debate and two ballots, the Armenian Supreme Soviet has finally approved the budget report on 1993 and the draft budget for 1994. At the same time, the parliament has rejected the government program for the republic's socioeconomic development and monetary policy for the current year, which were opposed by the "Dashnaktsutyun" Armenian Revolutionary Union and the National Democratic Union factions. In addition, the "Dashnaktsutyun" faction proposed that the parliament's standing commission on legal matters draw up a draft on reallocating the powers of the Supreme Soviet and the president.

The opposition has accused the government of lacking a clear model of the republic's economic development and the principles of improving the government system, and also specific social safety nets.

The parliamentary debate has shown that the opposition itself lacks a specific program to lift the republic out of the crisis. For all the abundance of criticism, no viable alternative to Bagratyan's policy has been proposed. In the view of some observers, the opposition acts according to the principle "Let's topple the government first, and then we will see." According to a local independent newspaper, "in case events unfold this way the people risk choosing between two evils." During the discussion, some opposition deputies have made so radical proposals (for instance, on concentrating all the state's financial reserves in the hands of one institution) that the prime minister accused them of calling for "economic fascism."

In Bagratyan's view, even in the current difficult conditions, with the minimum resources available, the government may improve macroeconomic indicators by 15-17 percent.

Nation To Switch To Summer Time 27 Mar

NC2303064494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1609 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Yerevan, March 22 (SNARK)—Armenia is also passing to summer time along with Russia. Armenian Government's press-service told SNARK hands of the clocks all over Armenia would be changed forward on a hour on March 27 night. Thus, there will be no difference in time between Moscow and Yerevan as before.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev's Novruz Message Calls For Unity

NC2103190994 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 20 Mar 94

["Text" of President Geydar Aliyev's Novruz Message on 20 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed fellow countrymen, sisters, and brothers: I congratulate all the people and citizens of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Novruz. Novruz is the spring festival. We have begun to mark this occasion after many years. It indicates significant developments in the world.

Azerbaijan's people have achieved their freedom. Azerbaijan is an independent republic. It has been recognized by the United Nations and it has taken the place it deserves in that organization. Novruz, which we have always marked, is [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, we are celebrating Novruz in the middle of a serious political situation. The Armenian Armed Forces have attacked our Republic. Consequently, a large part of Azerbaijan has been occupied. More than 1 million citizens have been forced to leave their homes and become refugees. Our people are prepared to fight to defend their homeland and its territory. Our heroic sons and fighters have been martyred in violent clashes while defending our homeland. On the eve of Novruz, I wish to bow my head and remember our martyrs. I also wish to assure our people that we shall always cherish the memory of our martyrs.

A regrettable incident occurred in Baku yesterday. An explosion destroyed a subway passenger car. Several passengers were either killed or wounded. I convey my condolences to their families. It seems that [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, the war is continuing. We are fighting to liberate our territory. Our Armed Forces continue to retaliate against the enemy attacks. They are taking measures to defend our homeland. The fighting is of a frontal nature. Our people have arisen to evict the enemy from their homeland. [passage omitted]

The war has created a tragic situation for Azerbaijan's people. More than 1 million citizens have been living under difficult conditions. [passage indistinct]

I wish to ask our citizens, who have been forced to live under miserable conditions after leaving their homes and property, to be patient. They must rest assured that Azerbaijan will definitely emerge from this state of affairs and that they will return to their homes and places of birth. [passage on Aliyev's reference to the importance of women and mothers and Azerbaijanis living abroad omitted]

Azerbaijan has many important problems. However, the most important of all is to create the conditions required to end the war, maintain Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, establish peace and tranquillity for the people, and enable each and every citizen to benefit from the gains of our freedom and independence. We regard those objectives as an obligation that we have tried to fulfill and we will continue to do so. The most urgent task is to end the war and maintain Azerbaijan's independence. Our problems are common knowledge. We are trying to [words indistinct]. The initiatives we have made in that direction are common knowledge. The Armenian Armed Forces must withdraw from the occupied territories. They must be removed from Azerbaijan's territory and Azerbaijan's territorial integrity must be maintained. We are holding talks on the basis of those principles. We shall maintain the talks. The negotiations will be held on the basis of the maintenance of Azerbaijan's independence and its territorial integrity. I hope that something will be achieved. The work carried out by the international organizations and influential countries is very important for us. We shall try to [words indistinct].

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces are [words indistinct] in the defense of the Republic's territory. Everyone must rest assured that we shall continue to work to strengthen the military forces to guarantee Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity. [passage indistinct]

If [words indistinct] fail, Azerbaijan's people and military forces are capable of defending the homeland and maintaining its territorial integrity. We shall achieve that objective. Our people must rest assured that the grave situation will be removed and Azerbaijan's occupied territories will be taken back. They must rest assured that independent Azerbaijan will [words indistinct] in the UN organization and the Republic's people will achieve their objectives. Nothing can obstruct this achievement. We shall try to resolve all the economic [words indistinct] problems. We urge the Republic's people to work together in that direction. [passage indistinct]

I appeal to our people and to all the political parties in our society to unite to save our Republic and its people from the difficult situation. [passage indistinct]

I hope that the very beautiful nature of Novruz will strengthen the patriotic feeling and the spirit of unity in our people. I also hope that our people will not spare any effort in trying to improve the situation in the Republic.

I congratulate the Republic's citizens on the occasion of Novruz once again. Esteemed sisters and brothers, I pray for the happiness of each and every one of you. May you have success in your life and work and may your festival be auspicious. I wish you health and [words indistinct]. Thank you.

Aliyev on Expectations From NATO Partnership

NC2203211394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1630 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent on President Geydar Aliyev's meeting with NATO representatives in Baku on 21 Mar]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Tugay Ozseri, Turkey's ambassador to NATO, was heading the delegation. The actual aim of this delegation was to ensure Azerbaijan's participation in the international Partnership for Peace program and in the military and political consultations.

Republic President Geydar Aliyev told the guests that the meeting will be useful, and added that this visit to Baku by a high-ranking delegation shows NATO's enormous interest in Azerbaijan, and that we will try to carefully listen to your views and proposals and discuss them in a spirit of cooperation.

Tugay Ozseri said that NATO adopted the Partnership for Peace program at the beginning of the year and that any country could freely become a member of NATO's new structure within the framework of this program. So far Ukraine, Moldova, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have signed this agreement. It is expected that Russia and Georgia will also join NATO's new program.

But, as a country waging a war, what will Azerbaijan expect or gain from the endorsement of this plan?

The head of the delegation and its members gave an unequivocal reply to this question, which was of interest to all those present at the meeting. The military alliance that they represent favors the defense of the territorial integrity of any independent state, it only holds military and political consultations and acts as a mediator in providing humanitarian assistance.

Geydar Aliyev reiterated that NATO's new structure is of enormous importance for Azerbaijan, and this is how he expressed his views on the subject:

[Aliyev] We know about NATO's appeal to the independent states, which were members of the former Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union, and its decision to accept their response. We want to clarify certain matters and establish our Republic's final position regarding this decision.

Undoubtedly, we welcome as very positive the declaration of the Partnership for Peace established within such a major organization as NATO. That is, we regard it as being very positive. This program is probably more important and urgent for our Republic than it is for the other countries that have joined it. This is because, as you know, Azerbaijan is in a war with Armenia. You yourselves indicated that 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands are under the occupation of the Armenian Armed Forces. The war is still continuing. Therefore, I reiterate that the enlistment in the program put forward by NATO, which is one of the most respected and prestigious international organizations, is very important in solving our problems.

Therefore, in joining this program it must be clear what Azerbaijan will gain. You noted that the benefits primarily rest in the fact that we will be in this organization, that is, we will have our representatives in this organization, that it will be possible to hold political consultations with this organization, and that certain problems might be taken into consideration in the bilateral agreement that will follow the signing of this program. We are interested in seeing the emergence of such possibilities for Azerbaijan, and we will appraise them. However, our demands go beyond these possibilities. And such demands are only natural, because as I noted we are in a war and our lands are under occupation. It will be inappropriate not only for Azerbaijan but also for NATO if we fail to solve this problem despite being, if not fully, almost a member of this most powerful military and political organization in the world. It is obvious that since its establishment, there has been no military conflict or discord between NATO countries. This is only natural, and that is how it should be, because countries that are members of a major political and military alliance cannot fight amongst themselves. But unfortunately, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia started when they were still two republics within a single Soviet state, let alone a mere alliance. The state failed to prevent this conflict. Now, Azerbaijan is a member of the newly formed CIS, you know this. Armenia was a member of CIS from the day of its inception. Could you imagine that despite being members of this union and having signed a collective security treaty within this union, the two states are at war? I declared during the Ashgabat meeting of the CIS heads of state on 24 December 1993 that such a situation is abnormal, and I requested that the states signatory to the collective security treaty come together and look into this matter. However, no positive result has been achieved. It could be that the CIS is still young and has little experience. Whereas, such a major organization as NATO established in 1949 has accumulated enormous experience, and maybe it can find an opportunity to help us after we join this Partnership for Peace program.

We invited you here to clarify these matters, and I would have wished that regarding these matters you [changes

thought]. I know that it is not possible to deviate from certain long-established principles of this organization, but a new program has now been drawn up. You said that 12 states have already signed this program. But, they probably do not have such a problem, whereas we do. Armenia also has such a problem. However, Armenia might approach this problem from a different angle, because its aggressiveness is obvious; it is the aggressor, and is occupying another state's territory. Whereas, we are victims of an aggression. In drawing your attention to these matters, I want to reiterate that we consider the Partnership for Peace program as being very useful. We, too, want to sign and became partners in this program. However, in view of present conditions in our Republic, we consider it important to clarify certain matters. In this connection, you already noted that our foreign minister has spoken to you about military budget and other matters. I hope that our ties in this direction will continue, and I hope that we will arrive at a consensus.

[Unidentified reporter] Republic Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu, and State Adviser Vafa Guliyzade also participated in the meeting. [end recording]

Aliyev Remarks Seen Against Conciliation

MK2201140094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy: "Russia in Settling of Conflicts. Moscow's Peacekeeping Efforts: Useless Fuss"]

[Text] The resumption of fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh late last week once again brought to naught Russia's peacekeeping efforts. Neither did the participants in the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly manage to make their contribution to the normalization of the situation, as they failed to persuade Azerbaijan's representatives to soften their demands on the withdrawal of the Armenian troops as a necessary condition for the resumption of dialogue with the Armenians. As for Geydar Aliyev's statements made on national television on Sunday, they generally put in doubt chances for the sides' reconciliation.

Having termed the combat operations by the Azerbaijan Army as just and liberating, Aliyev actually called upon his fellow countrymen for war till victory—until "Armenia's troops of occupation leave all the occupied lands." Diplomatic efforts, including those of Moscow, in his opinion, should be aimed at achieving this goal.

The main points of Aliyev's Sunday address were repeated later in the day, in his own interpretation, by Ara Saakyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian parliament. He stressed that normalization was possible only if fighting stops and Karabakh's legal status is determined. Without this, in his opinion, it is senseless to speak about any separation of the opposing sides. Saakyan simultaneously stated Yerevan's intention to turn for help in the settlement of the conflict to states of Europe and the United States, which attests to the fact that the idea of internationalizing the conflict is increasingly gaining popularity in the capitals of the opposing sides.

Situation Update Reports New Armenian Attacks

NC2203151294 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] A communique from the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Press Service has said that the enemy has tried to attack our positions around (Ashagy) from Korgan, which is an occupied town. Our fighters have retaliated and obstructed the enemy's advance. Some 20 Armenian troops have been killed.

The situation in Agdamskiy Rayon is tense. The enemy has leveled heavy fire on Zangishaly, (Kemendil), and Kyn-Kyshlak in that region. Meanwhile, our fighters' positions around the Omar Pass have been shelled with artillery guns.

The situation on the other parts of the front line is relatively peaceful at the present time.

Fighting Reported in Fizuli, Other Regions

LD2203164294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] An an Azerbaijani defense ministry spokesman told Interfax, Armenian troops launched an offensive toward the village of Alkhanly, Fizuli region, Azerbaijan at 8 am Tuesday. Many armored vehicles are said to be involved in the offensive. Fighting on this section of the front continues.

On Monday, Armenian forces reportedly tried to break through to the strategic Goradiz rail junction near the Azerbaijani-Armenian frontier but were forced back to where they had come from. By reports from Baku, two Karabakh army trucks with servicemen have been destroyed.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijani forces have come under mortar fire in the Agdam and Ter-Ters areas. There has been no reports from the Karabakh army so far.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns Entire Cabinet Could Resign

LD2203164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze has warned that if parliament disapproves his suggestion on the composition of government, "the issue of the resignation of the entire leadership, the head of state included, must automatically arise."

Speaking in parliament before discussion of the composition of the cabinet, he declared that it would be extremely unwise to resort "to such decisions (resignations) at this stage."

In the meantime, observers forecast volatile parliamentary debates Tuesday afternoon. This is borne out by the fact that even the parliamentary majority, formed to back Shevardnadze's initiatives, withheld support for most candidates nominated by him.

State of Emergency Extended in West to 25 May

LD2203161894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] At a session in Tbilisi Tuesday Georgia's parliament extended by yet another two months until May 20 the state of emergency in 14 West Georgian areas.

The state of emergency was invoked all over Georgia on September 20,1993 following unrest in West Georgia and Abkhazia. Two months ago it was prolonged only in some parts of West Georgia.

Opposition Denounces Shevardnadze, Power System

LD2203205094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] In Georgia during the parliamentary debate on the new cabinet on Tuesday the opposition voiced the need to reorganize the entire system of executive power. Among other things it suggested abolishing the post of head of state and introducing a parliamentary form of government. In addition, in a joint statement the opposition turned down the proposed cabinet in full.

Eduard Shevardnadze was blamed for all the troubles and difficulties of the country from the loss of South Ossetia and Abkhazia to general starvation.

However, despite the protests from the opposition the approval of the cabinet began. The very first candidate to the post of Vice Premier Irakly Menagarishvili was approved by the majority.

Agreement on Russian Troops Formation Signed

LD2203203694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1610 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of the Russian border troops, arrived on a duty visit on 14 March. Together with Colonel Valeriy Chkheidze, commander of the Georgian border troops, he signed an agreement on the procedure of formation and military service by the citizens of Georgia in the Russian border troops on the territory of Georgia.

This document is a constituent part of the intergovernmental agreement on the status and conditions of functioning of the Russian border troops in Georgia, which envisages a joint protection of borders with the Turkish Republic, that was signed during President Yeltsin's visit in Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze Receives Dagestan Delegation

AU2203204494 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Meeting With A Delegation From Dagestan"]

[Text] On 16 March, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, received a delegation from the Republic of Dagestan headed by Narbekom Adzhigaitkanov, deputy chairman of the Republic of Dagestan Council of Ministers. Vice-Premier Avtandil Margiani, Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations, and Vladimir Zemskiy, Russian Federation ambassador in Georgia, were present at the meeting.

The conversation focused on the traditional goodneighborly relations existing between the two neighboring peoples. "If one neighbor is having problems, this affects the other neighbor, if it is happy, the other is also happy," stated the guests from Dagestan. They pointed out that they have always viewed Georgia as a conscientious and peace-loving neighbor. Therefore, no matter what pain is caused to one another by individual excesses, this cannot change the goodwill between our two nations that has become ingrained over the centuries. Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze spoke at the meeting about mutual support between neighboring republics, which has such importance today during what is a difficult time for all. He emphasized the necessity of emerging from the crisis through joint efforts and by means of restoring old contacts and creating new ones. Dagestan could play one of the decisive roles in the Caucasus, particularly in that big issue that is called the "Caucasian dialogue," added the head of state at the end of the meeting.

Abkhazian Premier on Need for UN Peace Force

LD2203170394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Abkhazia's Premier Sokrat Jinjolia has declared that only a UN peace mission can resolve the conflict with Georgia and guarantee a lasting peace.

Asked by Interfax to comment on UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's statement that peace-keepers can't be sent to Abkhazia now because of unsuitable conditions there, Jinjolia noted that "there have always been conditions for a UN peace-keeping mission."

In his words, Abkhazia's leadership adheres to a document signed in Geneva on January 13 at the end of the second round of Abkhazi-Georgian talks, envisaging the

deployment of peace-keepers on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia along the Inguri river.

Last month Georgia changed its mind and called for positioning peace-keepers in Abkhazia, something that the Georgian leader Shevardnadze insisted on during his visit to U.S. earlier this month and in his speech at the United Nations. Meanwhile, the Abkhazi Parliament's Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba has declared that the introduction of peace-keepers in Abkhazia without its authorities' consent will be condemned as "an occupation with all the ensuing implications."

Separatists Introduce 'Quarantine' in Gali Rayon

AU2203191894 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 17 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Tengiz Pachkoria: "They Have Declared Quarantine in Gali Rayon"]

[Text] Information is being received from various official and unofficial sources according to which Abkhazian separatists have sharply restricted the movement of the civilian population within Gali rayon and have also, to all intents and purposes, reduced to a minimum contact between relatives and neighbors in Gali rayon who are located on different sides of the Inguri River. After all, the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Gali rayon, fearing atrocities and robberies by Abkhazian and north Caucasian fighters, have been forced to leave their birthplaces and find temporary shelter in Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, and other rayons in western Georgia. A certain number of their relatives still remain in Gali rayon.

The Abkhazian authorities have now virtually forbidden such movement. The formal reason given for this is the introduction of a quarantine on the territory of Gali rayon. Its period of duration is from 10 until 20 March.

In addition, during the last few days, Abkhazian and North Caucasian fighters stationed at the Inguri River have been sporadically opening fire with automatic weapons; they have been firing either into the air or in the direction of those villages in Zugdidi rayon that are located on the Inguri River. These acts of provocation, apart from anything else, are probably aimed at exerting psychological pressure on the inhabitants of the villages in Zugdidi rayon and the refugees there from the Abkhazian region.

Deputies Cited on Georgian Energy Crisis

PM2203111894 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by Vladimir Sarishvili: "Have Breakfast or a Shave?"]

[Text] The next morning I had one last mug of water left. Running a hand over my chin I decided that I still looked respectable and I would be allowed into parliament. So I used the water to boil an egg for breakfast. And I decided to have a wash and clean my shoes in parliament.

That day was perhaps the last in the chain of the unprecedented energy crisis, at least for the people of Tbilisi. As Eduard Shevardnadze said, the entire government together with the head of state is now performing the functions of a controller in order somehow to keep the situation under control.

I asked deputies Tengiz Sigua and Irina Sarishvili the strange but urgent question of who is to blame for the fact that I had to go to parliament unshaven. Sigua did not stop to think for a second: "The Georgian national bank. Over the first 10 months of 1992 the former leadership of the national bank issued credits to the sum of $400 million. Whereas in the previous heating season the country consumed 38-40 million kilowatt-hours of electricity using procured fuel oil and energy resources while its need was for 45-50 million, this year it consumed nearly half as much. Why? Because the commodities with which we were to pay for the deliveries of fuel have been purchased with these credits and exported beyond the republic and, turning into rubles and dollars, have settled in foreign banks. Only 8 percent of the credits issued were used to help the country. As a result Georgia is on famine rations as far as energy is concerned."

In the opinion of Irina Sarishvili the situation has been aggravated by the sale of energy resources to Armenia. I would call this not political but purely parasitical sabotage," Sarishvili said. "But it is hard to find someone here who will say anything directly. The facts? There are no facts in this state. They turn off your light, then you pay money and they turn it on."

What way out of the overall crisis can I see? The government program built on slogans will provide nothing although that program, Shevardnadze's program, and other programs contain many theoretically correct recommendations. We must have a government in which the people the people will have a sense of political trust so that people do not think they are being misled and robbed. Then it will be possible to speak of the inception of trends toward improving the situation."

Estonia

Laar Sees No Use for Mediation in Troop Talks

LD2203210094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1719 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Estonian Premier Mart Laar believes that Estonia does not need the mediation of third states during settlement of the issue of Russian troop withdrawal.

Speaking at a press conference in Tallinn on Tuesday, Estonian Premier Laar disapproved of the proposals that the problem be resolved under mediation by other states put forward by some Estonian politicians. However, he suggested that international mediation might be useful when resolving the issue on the borders with Russia which had reached a deadlock.

Estonia does not recognize the unification of several regions which belonged to Estonia under the Russian-Estonian treaty of 1920 but then were joined to Russia in 1944-1945.

Commenting on the coming round of the Estonian-Russian negotiations on April 5-6, Estonian Premier Laar stated that Estonia would make no concessions on the issue concerning residence permit for Russian retired servicemen living in Estonia.

"We will act in accordance with our legislation and we are not going to change it," Estonian Premier Laar emphasized. However, he believes that the treaty on the Russian troops' withdrawal will be signed at the next round of the negotiations despite the fact that Russia conditions this issue with the one on retired servicemen.

There are about 2,500 Russian servicemen remaining in Estonia who are expected to be withdrawn by August 31, 1994.

Delegation Head Predicts Difficult Negotiations

WS2203205494 Tallinn ETA in English 1806 GMT 22 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Another round of Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations to be held in Moscow on April 5-6 will not be easy, the head of the Estonian delegation, Vino Reinart, said in an interview with ETA.

"First, we would like to know what Russia's position is at the next meeting," he said while adding that, hopefully, Russia would comply to its responsibility to withdraw forces from Estonia by August 31 deadline without pegging it to other problems yet to be solved.

During the last round of negotiations on March 1-2, Russia withdrew its earlier commitment to pull out its forces by August 31 and neglected to offer another date for negotiations.

Following support to Estonia by the Western countries, Russia proposed another date which Estonia accepted.

On answering the question on possible concessions, Reinart said the basis for negotiations were Estonia's laws. The position of retired Russian military has been an issue of debate between the two countries. The question has been dealt with in Estonia's Law on Aliens, Reinart said.

Under the Law on Aliens, the retired military have no right to apply for residence in Estonia, but a following governmental decree allows granting them residence permits on individual basis.

On commenting agreements initialled between Latvia and Russia, Reinart said that Latvia was in a more difficult position as they lacked respective legislation. Russia, of course, hopes that Estonia would amend some of its laws, Reinart added.

Formation of Team To Foster Moldovan Ties Noted

WS2303152994 Tallinn BNS in English 1002 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 23, BNS—The Estonian Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday [22 March] approved the setup of the country's delegation for trade and economic talks with Moldova, Economics Minister Toivo Jurgenson said.

He said the delegation appointed was not going to sign any agreements, but would make the first steps toward closer economic cooperation with the other former Soviet republic. The Estonian delegation will be headed by Urve Nou, advisor at the Foreign Ministry's department for foreign economic policy.

The Cabinet also gave its approval to the bills of amendments to the alcohol and tobacco excise tax laws. The draft bills, together with a proposed amendment to the administrative code, were submitted to the parliament.

Jurgenson said no changes were made in the alcohol excise tax rates. He added that the amendments had been about bringing the law into conformity with other legislative acts.

The Cabinet on Tuesday ruled to postpone its formal decision on setting up the country's Agency of Foreign Investment and a National Business Registry.

First Deputy From Russian Community To Begin Work

WS2403095294 Tallinn BNS in English 0650 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 22, BNS—The first MP coming from Estonia's Russian-speaking community, Social Democratic Party's Sergey Zonov, will start work in the Estonian State Assembly (parliament) Wednesday [23 March].

Zotov replaces Ardo Ojasalo, who was appointed the head of the country's Tax Department and has to step down as MP, as the next candidate on ticket of the 1992 parliamentary elections.

Zotov in today's interview with BNS said he was going to aim his activity in the parliament toward the adoption of legislative acts that would contribute to integration of Russian-speakers into Estonia's life and to equal rights in the society.

In Zotov's words the population in Estonia could be viewed as divided into five categories: legal citizens of Estonia, those applying for Estonian citizenship, those applying for the citizenship of some other country, citizens of other countries, and those who have to make up their minds yet. Zotov says the country's stability will depend on what will be the official policy toward the last of these five categories.

He said it was essential for Estonia that as many as possible of those still making up their minds would choose to apply for Estonian citizenship. In order to achieve this, it is necessary, beside other things, to better inform people about the application rules, work out a national language learning program, and abstain from extremist statements in politics. Apart from this, many problems of legislative and bureaucratic character need to be resolved, he added.

"It is also important that Russia withdrew its military units from Estonia, because this is a problem over which particularly active speculation is going on. It may be that upon the final withdrawal other issues for speculation will be found, but currently this is the main one," Zotov said in the interview.

He said he was going to use the "good team" that his Social Democratic Party and the Moderate coalition, part of which the Social Democrats are, have in the parliament. He said also his own good personal contacts with Estonian politicians were a factor that would positively contribute to his work.

"I have people whom I know well practically in all factions of the parliament," Zotov said, adding that these contacts had been established during his work at the Estonian Popular Front and the Council of Estonian Citizens.

Zotov told BNS that he was ready to work closely with the organizations of Estonia's Russian-speakers, but was not going to allow himself to become their tool in the parliament or enforce ideas that are contradicting his own.

Social Guarantees for Retired Military Drafted

WS2203200594 Tallinn BNS in English 1629 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 22, BNS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry is working on a new wording of a draft agreement on social guarantees for the retired Russian military living in the country.

The text of the agreement is to be taken for discussion at the next round of the Estonian-Russian talks due on Apr. 5-6, said Ago Tiiman, secretary of the Estonian delegation for the talks.

"Virtually this is the same draft that was discussed before. We are now working on the provisions that were not agreed upon with Russia and we are trying to find a text that would be satisfactory for both sides," Tiiman said.

Opposition MP [member of parliament] Tiit Made, however, warned that Estonia might be backing down on its original position and bend to making concessions to Russia over the issue.

"It is questionable if the new wording of the agreement is in conformity with the existing laws, because it is possible to change the laws any time in the State Assembly at the ruling coalition's proposal. Also the text of the agreement can be changed so that it would be acceptable for both sides and can be interpreted whatever way one sees to be proper," Made said.

The opposition MP said it seemed to him as if pressure had been exerted upon the Estonian Foreign Ministry lately.

"Apparently the Foreign Ministry faces the risk of being left standing alone, as our great friend Latvia has been pinned to the floor," Made said, referring to Latvia and Russia having initialed an agreement on the conditions, timetable and regulations for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and on the legal status of the Russian troops during the period of the withdrawal.

"I would very much like to know what Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke during his visit to Helsinki to the Finnish leaders and what did Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho tell his Estonian colleagues after that," Made told BNS.

Tiiman said Estonia was not going to retreat before any of Russia's demands.

"If the agreement on social guarantees for the retired Russian military happens to be signed, MP Tiit Made has the full right to protest its text upon its ratification and prove that it means Estonia's surrendering to Russia," Tiiman said.

Made contested Tiiman's suggestions, saying he would be unable to do this because he has not got the parliament majority backing him.

Made said he as an MP could do whatever he wished, but the ruling coalition would still get what it wants by voting down any opposition. He said there were signs of danger in the air.

Prime Minister Mart Laar at today's press conference told BNS that Made was having a "lively fantasy." The premier assured reporters that nobody had exerted pressure on Estonia.

"On the contrary: a large number of Western countries have expressed support to our demands. At one time we were very close to signing a general agreement on troop withdrawal with Russia. Now we hope that also Russia has the intention to move ahead at the forthcoming round of talks. All that we do stays in conformity with the Estonian laws and we are not going to change the laws, neither will Estonia back down on its demands," Laar said.

Made said the issue at stake was giving residence permits to 4,200-4,500 retired Russian military living in Estonia.

Estonia's chief negotiator for the talks with Russia, Vaimo Reinart, explained that Russia with the social guarantees agreement for its retired military wished to establish the circle of persons entitled to apply for a residence permit in Estonia. Reinart said Estonia, from its side, wanted that the agreement instead of determining the circle of persons established regulations for how the retired Russian military would get their pensions from Russia and pay for the medical services.

The other key issue is how to privatize the flats of the retired Russian military. Russia wants that Estonia issued its privatization vouchers to the military for their service in the armed forces.

"Since Estonia is not giving vouchers even to its own citizens for the years of service in the Russian Army, the Russian side wants to get a little more rights for the retired Russian military than what Estonian citizens are having," Reinart told BNS.

Minister Says Registering Active Military Vital

WS2203163894 Tallinn BNS in English 1416 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 22, BNS—Getting Russia's active service military registered is likely to become the main problem in drawing up the residents lists of Paldiski, Estonian Population Minister Peeter Olesk said.

Estonia today began registering the residents of the former Soviet military base town located some 40 kilometers to the west of the country's capital. The campaign is scheduled to continue until Saturday [26 March].

Olesk in an interview with BNS warned that if the country fails to get a record of Russia's active service military and their family members in the town, a substantial part of Paldiski residents will remain a secret for Estonia.

"We must have on record how many active service military and their family members are there in Paldiski, and who they are. If we fail to learn this, it means one: the Russian side is destabilizing security in Paldiski," he said.

The minister said talks on the issue had taken place between the Russian military and the Estonian Government's special representative in the area, Juri Tikk. Olesk said Russian army representatives had promised to present lists of their military in the town. But he added that this was not enough for Estonia.

To pass the procedure, Paldiski residents must answer a questionnaire, after what they will get a special inscription into their passports. Car owners must also present their driver's license and car ownership document.

The questionnaires will be filled in by Estonian officials and then signed by the respondent.

Estonian authorities will be entitled to deny working and residence permits to non-citizens who have no passport inscription on having passed the registration. The stamp will also give the holder the right to enter Paldiski at the time when special entry regulations are to be introduced. The regulations will be effective during the dismantling of two nuclear reactors at a Russian base in the area.

Olesk said the overwhelming majority of Paldiski residents were in favor of the registering. The questionnaires are later to be checked by officials at the Citizenship and Migration Department.

"It is clear that as the passport inscription is also a certain kind of guarantee for movement in Paldiski during the time of dismantling of the reactors, most Paldiski residents want to get this inscription. Paldiski residents also understand that the passport inscription and the special regulations to be introduced for the time of dismantling of the reactors are in their own interests," Olesk explained.

Government representative Juri Tikk has earlier said that the passport registration campaign which started today "is only the first stage that will give a picture of the town's residents and their documents."

"Sooner or later also those who abstain from filling in the questionnaire will have to bring their explanations. At the time when nuclear fuel will be brought out from Paldiski and controls are stepped up at the Pakri peninsula, those people will start to get caught," Tikk said.

Tikk said about 250 Estonian citizens and some 4,000 loyal residents and their children were currently living in Paldiski. Those are the people that have received the Estonian privatization documents. Estimates put the number of Russian military in the town at 800-1,000, about 600 of whom must leave the country by Aug. 31, 1994. Then only some 200 Russian military specialists will remain in the town to dismantle the nuclear facility.

"Those people will be allowed to remain in Estonia only in their status as civilians," Tikk added.

Russians Given Permission To Dismantle Reactors

#WS2303100294 Tallinn BNS in English 0658 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 22, BNS—The Estonian Cabinet at its meeting today issued a permission to bring a group of Russian military to the former base town of Paldiski for the dismantling of the two nuclear training reactors at the Paldiski base.

Prime Minister Mart Laar at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting said the permit had been issued for "a small group of military."

Laar said "no problems or obstacles" had emerged over the issue of the nuclear reactors' pulldown with Russia.

Estonia and Russia have also held talks over the possibility to bring into the country additional equipment necessary for the dismantling of the reactors. The Estonian leader added that also the Nordic countries had promised to extend help in the process if necessary.

The government's special representative in Paldiski, Juri Tikk, told BNS on Friday [18 March] that both Estonia and Russia were ready to start taking out nuclear fuel from the reactors. The two countries' officials in joint staff and command maneuvers on March 16 trained coordination of activity for the case of emergencies. Tikk said the countries are ready to act effectively also if the worst happened and an explosion involving radioactive materials took place.

"The Russian side has asked that in case if the 'black scenario' really starts to happen, which the Russian military in Estonia would be unable to manage with, 200 Russian military experts together with the necessary equipment be brought into Estonia via the Amari airfield. The Estonian side has not objected to this plan in principle, but demands that an exact list of the military and their equipment be presented before the dismantling work begins," Tikk said.

Tikk declined to confirm or dismiss the reports that work on taking radioactive fuel out from the reactors was going to start on Apr. 6. He said the date was still open.

Over 16,000 Said To Receive Citizenship by Feb

#WS2303094694 Tallinn BNS in English 0658 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 22, BNS—The number of non-ethnic Estonians who had obtained Estonian citizenship by the beginning of February was 16,324, statistics reports show.

Of these more than sixteen thousand people, 3,390 were granted citizenship under the regular naturalization procedure, and 605, for outstanding merit before the Republic of Estonia.

Estonia has established regulations favoring people who registered themselves in 1990-1991 as applicants for the Estonian citizenship with the Congress of Estonia, a parallel parliament set up to stand for the legitimacy of interests and legal continuity of the pre-war Republic of Estonia in the country's struggle for independence from the Soviet Union.

A total 12,329 holders of the Congress of Estonia cards, who are not required to pass the language exam or the one-year waiting period after entering the citizenship application, had obtained citizenship by early last month.

Also 12,718 ethnic Estonians who were not citizens by birth had been granted citizenship. Ethnic Estonians can obtain citizenship under looser procedure rules.

Russian-speakers make up about one-third of Estonia's 1.5 million population. A considerable number of ethnic Russians also are citizens by birth and received citizenship without having to apply for it. Their exact number is not known.

Latvia

Ministry Reports Christopher Letter

#WS2203102294 Riga Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 2235 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Issued on 14 March]

[Text] On March 9, 1994, Georgs Andrejevs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, received a letter from US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Christopher reiterated US support for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia by August 31, 1994 at the latest. The Secretary of State also expressed his understanding of Latvia's painful problems resulting from 50 years of occupation.

In his letter, Mr. Christopher touched on issues concerning the Skrunda early-warning radar installation, and confirmed that the US is exploring the possibility of financial assistance for its dismantling.

Mr. Christopher noted that he is well informed about and understand the issues related to Latvia's citizenship law. He also expressed the hope that the Latvian government will find a politically and morally judicious resolution to this problem.

In relation to the solution of fundamental security issues for Latvia, of special merit Mr. Christopher noted the visit to the US by the delegation from Latvia's Saeima [parliament].

At the end of his letter, the US Secretary of State once again confirmed America's favourable disposition towards and support of Latvia.

Ulmanis Meets With Troop Withdrawal Delegation

WS2803100494 Tallinn BNS in English 0659 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 22, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis met Tuesday [22 March] with the country's 14-member delegation that reached the March 15 troop withdrawal agreement with Russia.

The group discussed the recent public opinion poll on the troop withdrawal and the prolonged functioning of the former Soviet radar at Skrunda in Latvia.

According to the poll, 52 percent of respondents want Russia to withdraw the Skrunda base together with the other remaining troops.

The situation may have two explanations—either the people really protest the signature of like agreements or they lack information on what the favorable solution of the problem could give to Latvia. The participants of the meeting agreed that the government should work to better inform the public about its work and intentions.

Birkavs Defends Agreement With Russia

LD2803113694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2353 GMT 22 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga, 23 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs categorically rejected accusations by the opposition that the delegation to the talks with Russia, which initialled a package of agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops a week ago, betrayed the interests of the state. "Only the enemies of Latvia will benefit if these documents are not signed," he told journalists.

The meeting with the press took place Tuesday evening after the Cabinet meeting at which the accords reached with Russia were discussed. It is expected that the government will officially announce its support for them next week. Then the presidents and parliaments of the two countries will express their attitude to them.

Valdis Birkavs emphasized that international public opinion approves the agreements reached with Russia. The prime minister also expressed confidence that many countries will be able to help Latvia with the means for dismantling the Russian radar station at Skrunda and also for improving the health of the residents of that settlement.

Baltic Ministers Meet With Germany's Kinkel

WS2103080194 Riga DIENA in Latvian 10 Mar 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Janis Kalmanis: "Germany Will Support the Baltic States in Their Efforts To Join the EU"]

[Text] Riga, 9 Mar—Beginning on 1 July, when Germany assumes the rotating Presidency of the European Union [EU], it will do everything in its power to ensure that negotiations on concluding an association agreement with the three Baltic states are started immediately, German Foreign Affairs Minister Klaus Kinkel announced today in Bonn, during his meeting with the three Baltic foreign ministers. Latvian Ambassador in Germany Andris Kesteris told DIENA in a telephone interview that a few months prior to Germany assuming the leadership post, it wants to clarify, along with the Baltic states, what concrete steps should be taken to reach this goal.

Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Georgs Andrejevs presented a speech on the problem of Baltic states receiving associate status in the EU, saying that by granting associate member status to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the EU could affect a much more effective neutralization of the Russian concept of the "near abroad"—this according to the press center of the Latvian Foreign Affairs Ministry. "These concepts—near abroad and zone of special interests—are denied categorically by us and our neighbors," said K. Kinkel, according to REUTER. As DIENA correspondent in Bonn O.J. Rozitis reports, referring to information released by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs on K. Kinkel's consultations with the Baltic foreign affairs ministers on the morning of 9 March, K. Kinkel emphasized that the Baltics have always mirrored European stability. This is why Germany is interested in consolidating relations between the Baltic states and Russia. As an example, K. Kinkel cited the positive role of Germany in talks between the United States [as published] and Latvia concerning a compromise on the Skrunda radar station.

A. Kesteris told DIENA that in the course of discussing the relations of the Baltic states with Russia, the German minister of foreign affairs expressed his approval of the Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia by 31 August of this year, and congratulated the foreign ministers on the agreement which was reached on the issue of the Skrunda radar station continuing to function, albeit temporarily, after the troops are withdrawn. The Latvian ambassador to Germany stated that the problems of the inhabitants who came to Latvia after the 1940 occupation are understood by Germany with greater precision.

The DIENA correspondent in Bonn, Ojars J. Rozitis, reports that the British newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES has cited the German foreign affairs minister as saying that Russia should not link the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states with the rights of Russians residing in these states. After the recent break in Russian-Estonian talks, Great Britain and the United States have also expressed similar opinions. This question is also said to be a topic of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which are scheduled for next Monday [14 March] in Vladivostok.

At the same time, world press agencies report that during the meeting with the Baltic foreign affair ministers, the German minister of foreign affairs encouraged Latvia and Estonia to integrate the Russian minority. This integration is vital for future relations with Russia, the chief German diplomat said, advising the Balts to avoid angering the Russian nationalists and to promise to observe the rights of ethnic Russians.

In reply to a question at a news conference, as to what could possibly be the reaction of the West if Russia does not comply with its agreements, Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Georgs Andrejevs answered that thus far Latvia has fulfilled all the recommendations of Western countries. The West has accepted it, and therefore they will be responsible for it, G. Andrejevs said. The German foreign affairs minister agreed on that point. Nevertheless, K. Kinkel expressed the belief that it would not be advisable to create sharp, provocative political borders with Russia. At the same time, K. Kinkel emphasized that during his recent meeting with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister A. Kozyrev in Athens, he told him categorically that Germany expects Russia to observe its international obligations regarding troop withdrawal from the Baltic states, O.J. Rozitis reports.

Germany is categorically against granting Russia a special mandate for peacekeeping on the territory of the former Soviet Union. In the event it becomes necessary, it should be the mandate of the United nations or CSCE, for every different case, providing that the legal government of the country agrees to it. The Baltic states should not be included in the formula of "the former republics of the USSR." Such is the position of Germany conveyed by the press center of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. O.J. Rozitis reports that the Baltic foreign ministers unanimously stated at the press conference that they are not afraid of close relations between Russia and Germany, or Western countries in general, because only with the assistance of these countries can Moscow be influenced. "The only thing we fear is that these big countries may once again sacrifice our small countries for the purpose of stabilization," said G. Andrejevs.

As for the often asked question concerning so-called human rights violations, A. Kesteris told DIENA that this question had not even been mentioned during the talks of the four ministers.

Issues related to the Partnership for Peace program and the associative status of the Baltic states with the Western European Union were also discussed.

Accord on Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Signed

LD2203215994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Military commanders of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, who are meeting in Jurmala, have signed an agreement on further cooperation in the formation of a joint Baltic peacekeeping battalion, Balbat, said Jonas Andriskevicius, commander of the Lithuanian Army, at a news conference today.

He also informed the press that a letter to the presidents of the three states, the prime ministers, and the ministers of defense was signed in Jurmala. They are asked in the letter to politically legalize the formation of this battalion.

The main attribute of the Balbat was approved at the meeting.

The battalion's flag will depict symbols of all three Baltic states. The joint battalion will consist of five units—staff, supply, and three infantry units. It will have 722 servicemen: 64 officers, 121 non-commissioned officers, and 537 soldiers. It is expected that the first Balbat will be formed at the end of 1995. The official language used in the battalion will be English. The commander of the first Baltic battalion will be a Lithuanian. Soldiers will be admitted to the battalion according to a contract.

World Bank, IMF: Uniform Customs Needed

WS2103205294 Tallinn BNS in English 1634 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 21, BNS—Latvia needs a uniform system of customs tariffs for all goods, according to recommendations from the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund.

The country's legislation should provide a common customs duty but it should be implemented gradually to prevent a too rapid unification of tariffs, said WB coordinator in Latvia, Inguna Dobraja.

A WB mission worked in Riga last week and acquainted itself with the local system of customs tariffs in view of introducing a new model, Dobraja said.

WB experts suggested that Latvia promotes exports by repaying customs duty for exported goods which are made with imported equipment and raw materials, Dobraja noted.

The WB mission toured the Riga trade port, the Riga airport and a customs checkpoint to study the local conditions.

The mission will prepare a detailed survey on the results of the visit. But they already noticed that Latvia needs to improve the customs bookkeeping and revise the mechanism of collecting customs duties.

The customs duties should be collected through non-cash accounting to avoid corruption, the WB specialists said.

The next WB mission will continue to study the Latvian customs late in April.

Family Incomes Register 5.6 Percent Drop in 1993

WS2203144194 Riga LETA in English 1142 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, March 22 (LETA)—In 1993 real family incomes in Latvia dropped by 5.6 percent, reported the state committee for statistics, which keeps the budget of 1300 families under uncreasing control. In comparison with the last year incomes rose by 37.5 percent, while consumer prices increased by 2.1 times. As a result of the lowered common purchasing power the actual value of goods bought and pay services also decreased. The family consumer structure has distorted in a way that the bulk of money expenses are undertaken to pay for food, public utilities and taxes. The asked families spent more than two thirds of their incomes in 1993 for these purposes: 44 percent for food, 19.5 percent for other necessary goods, 19.2 for pay services. Poor families in 1993 spent 77 percent of their funds for food, public utilities, transport and other necessary expenses.

Lithuania

Baltic Presidents To Discuss Cooperation, Relations

WS2203163694 Tallinn BNS in English 1416 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 22, BNS—Presidents Lennart Meri of Estonia, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia and Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania are scheduled to meet in the Lithuanian seaside resort of Palanga Friday [25 March].

The program of the summit is not fully perpared yet but the Lithuanian President's Office said the meeting will start with lunch at 1 p.m.

Justas Paleckis, the Lithuanian president's foreign policy adviser, told the state-run ELTA news agency that the three presidents intend to discuss priorities in the foreign policy of the Baltic states. In Paleckis' words, cooperation between the three Baltic nations, integration with Western Europe and relations with neighboring countries will be the central issues during the meeting.

The presidential adviser said the Baltic states are now able to coordinate their positions much easier than a year ago. Paleckis said the only slight disagreements concern free trade agreements with the European Union [EU]. Lithuania and Latvia intend to sign the so-called asymmetrical agreements which restrict the import of some goods, while Estonia wants to completely liberalize trade with the EU.

Premier, Russian Officials Confer on Housing

LD2203192594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1739 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Lithuanian Premier Adolfas Slezevicius said at a meeting with the head of the Kaliningrad regional administration Yuriy Matochkin and Commander of the Russian Baltic Fleet Admiral Vladimir Yegorov in Vilnius on Tuesday that the Lithuanian Government is interested in the successful fulfillment of the program for the construction of housing in the Kaliningrad Region for the Russian military pulled out of the Baltic states.

As the press secretary of the Lithuanian Government Viktoras Baublys told Interfax, the meeting focused on the consequences for the housing construction program of the arrest of the president of the Lithuanian construction company Selma.

Selma's president Vladas Laurinavicius was arrested last Thursday while the Prosecutor's Office searched homes of those suspected of machinations with the purchase of arms from the Russian military by the Ministry of Home Defense. Laurinavicius, former prisoner, was a mediator during these operations. His company "Selma" is building housing for the Russian military in the Kaliningrad region under an agreement with Russia.

On Friday Laurinavicius was scheduled to meet with the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who was then visiting Kaliningrad.

It was agreed in Vilnius that on Thursday, Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania Vladislovas Domarkas and government officials would pay a visit to Kaliningrad. They will assess the situation with the construction of housing for the Russian military and determine if there is a need for the Lithuanian Government's interference in the process.

Further Details of Discussions

LD2203174294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] A meeting between Lithuanian Premier Adolfas Slezevicius and Russian Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Vladimir Yegorov took place in the government palace in Vilnius at noon today.

The admiral and the Lithuanian premier were elucidating issues linked with the arrest of Vladas Laurinavicius, president of the Kaunas association Selma. As is known, the Selma association, headed by Vladas Laurinavicius, who was arrested in Kaunas last week, is building apartments for Russian servicemen in Kaliningrad.

A Baltic News Service correspondent was told by the government press service that Lithuania was represented at the meeting by the National Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius, Procurator General Arturas Paulauskas, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladislovas Domarkas, and also by Vytautas Juskus, chairman of the Seimas committee for the investigation of economic crimes, and Vytautas Petkevivius, chairman of the Seimas national security committee.

In addition to Admiral Yegorov, Russia was represented by Viktor Antipov, first secretary of the Russian Embassy in Vilnius, and Military Attache Nikolay Pivovarchuk.

Belarusian Envoy on Ties, Alleged Claims

WS2203123594 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 15 Mar 94 No. 50 p 10

[Interview with Yevgeniy Voytovich, Belarusian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Lithuania, by Algimantas Brazaitis in Vilnius; date not given: "Tied Scores Are Most Important for Diplomats"—questions published in boldface; first paragraph is TIESA introduction]

[Excerpts] Yevgeniy Voytovich, former chief of the "Belarusfilm" studio and the Belarusian State Cinematographic Committee of many years, and the current ambassador to Lithuania, gave an interview for TIESA. He spoke with reporter Algimantas Brazaitis, former chairman of the Lithuanian Cinematographic Committee.

[Brazaitis] Welcome to Lithuania. We, the former colleagues, used to meet in Vilnius quite often. However, I would call this meeting the first one due to your different position—you are the first Belarusian envoy to independent Lithuania. [passage omitted]

[Voytovich] I am convinced that we will preserve the tradition of friendship. The first indicator was the cultural agreement between Belarus and Lithuania as independent states, which I had the honor to sign with Dainius Trinkunas, your minister of culture and education.

[Brazaitis]**This agreement was really the first sign of spring. However, after changing your position from the Belarusian minister of culture to that of the first Belarusian envoy to Lithuania, you will have to develop most diverse relations. How do you imagine this mission and the future of Lithuanian-Belarusian interstate relations?**

[Voytovich] Any civilized state, and I believe unconditionally that Lithuania and Belarus are such countries, gives priority to its relations with the closest neighbors. This is particularly vital to our nations with long-standing friendship and similar fates. Due to their position in the center of Europe and a peculiar buffer role between the East and the West, they have experienced many crucial ordeals. [passage omitted]

Having achieved independence, our nations are creating democratic European states. In this case, the goals of Belarus and Lithuania coincide. We have mutual interest from the geopolitical and economic viewpoint. Our state has no access to the sea, while the shortest road to a Baltic port runs across your country. Your most direct transit routes to Ukraine, Russia, and other Eastern states run through Belarus. Those countries have a vast economic potential and boundless markets.

There are several other factors promoting cooperation and providing chances for mutual benefit of our nations.

While presenting my credentials to His Excellency Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, I stated: I believe that my key and strategic goal and spiritual vocation as a Belarusian envoy to the Republic of Lithuania is to do everything possible in developing and strengthening our constant political and economic relations. I am ready to keep my word.

[Brazaitis]**Your persistence deserves respect. I know your friendly attitude toward Lithuania which you demonstrate in resolving the problems of cultural cooperation. However, some politicians caused a commotion when you called Vilnius the capital of Belarus in the Belarusian paper ZVYAZDA.**

[Voytovich] While giving an interview for this paper, I spoke about historical, cultural, and spiritual relations between our nations. I really stated that Vilnius was also the capital of the Belarusians in the past. Our nations lived in the same state and had one capital—Vilnius—during the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

I am convinced that history unites rather than divides us. There was not the slightest hint in this phrase that I claimed your beloved capital. Other interpretations of my words are incorrect. I even stressed in the same interview that "all issues must be resolved following the provision of the Helsinki Final Act on the inviolability of borders in post-war Europe. In my new office, I will place emphasis on mentality and a peaceful attitude—the traits typical of both nations. At the same time, I will execute the conceptual policy of my parliament and the government." This is exactly what was said and written.

[Brazaitis]**Could you tell us a few words about Adutiskis? This issue is still being discussed in the Lithuanian and Belarusian press and politicians' offices.**

[Voytovich] A problem does exist. However, I would request reporters not to dramatize this situation. Emotions and strong words are only an obstacle. A bilateral commission is working on the delineation of the border, and it has already accomplished much. The positions of the two parties have differed even in 40 cases. However, following the principles of parity in international relations and of the established use of land, we have found a solution. I hope that by working in this manner, the commission will find a solution for the Adutiskis railway station acceptable to both parties.

[Brazaitis]**Mr. Ambassador, while representing the interests of the state, one must bear in mind the political forces and consider relations between the ruling group and the opposition in one's country. What could you tell TIESA readers about such most prominent political leaders as V. Kebich, S. Shushkevich, and Z. Pozniak?**

[Voytovich] [passage omitted] I assess all the persons you have listed as normal statesmen and politicians. I am

convinced that there can be no civilized state without an opposition. Certainly, I wish the latter were less emotional and angry and more objective, and had more arguments.

The upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections will show the weight and recognition of political forces among the population.

[Brazaitis]**Yevgeniy Konstantinovich, our readers would like to learn more about you.**

[Voytovich] I was born in a village near Minsk. I graduated from a technical school and an institute. I also finished postgraduate studies. I am a master of economics.

My work record is rather vivid—from a metal worker to a minister and an envoy. I wish I had been a teacher. Pedagogical experience would be very useful now.

I am fond of theater, music, and art. I also read fiction, but I prefer historical novels. I play chess. What about a game? I promise a tied score.

[Brazaitis]Thank you. I understand that tied scores are the most valuable victories for diplomats.

Foreign Minister on Draft Treaty With Poland

WS2203123094 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 16 Mar 94 No. 51 p 15

[Interview with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys by Algimantas Zukas in Vilnius; date not given: "Treaty—Only Favorable Background for Relations"]

[Text] [Zukas] We have met to discuss the political Lithuanian-Polish interstate treaty that has already been prepared, but that remains to be signed. You just returned from Germany. I think that the treaty, the preparation of which has taken so much time, was also remembered there.

[Gylys] I realized that the news about a breakthrough in our negotiations was received favorably. Germany's signing of the state agreement with Poland was more painful. By the way, they could speak about ethnic borders, as some people are fond of saying in our country, not only with Poland but also, let us say, with France. I think, however, that the future agreement is a proper move in removing historical misunderstandings.

[Zukas] Let us try to assess this treaty from the geopolitical viewpoint then. Do you think that this is an overly high level?

[Gylys] No, your question is timely. We often reason in categories of inner patriotism: How can I, as a Lithuanian, agree that there are also Lithuanians beyond Lithuania's borders, but not guarantee that they will be together with me. When defending state interests, one must see not only domestic events but one must also understand the surrounding world and even the danger of finding ourselves under siege. We must abandon the enemy image created by the opponents of the treaty. This might seem like patriotism and the protection of state interests, but it looks more like sabotage on second thought. If we do not introduce order in our relations, we will not be attractive to businessmen, and it will be difficult and unreal to think about the integration with Europe. Talks on the associate agreement with the European Union [EU] are beginning in the second half of this year—we must put things in order by that time. The EU reprimands us for ethnic minorities [as published], and the foreign army is absent from our country—these are the great advantages. The only problem that remains is the normalization of relations.

[Zukas] Does the signing of this treaty mean that General L. Zeligowski's problem has already been solved, or that it will reemerge in diplomatic and ruling circles?

[Gylys] We reached an agreement while negotiating that we would be able to discuss this issue in the future, because we are democratic states, or at least we are trying to become such. Discussions will certainly not subside. They might involve primarily historians. I suppose that we must resort to measures and principles typical of modern times. Europe of the 21th century will be different. Problems that are so important to us now will probably look quite different then.

[Zukas] How then, could you explain the constant "friction" with the opposition over this treaty?

[Gylys] I see two reasons—the gnoseological and the psychological, that is, how people understand this issue. I think that most of these people really wish the state well. They want Lithuania to make moves which, in their opinion, are beneficial to it. No one can deprive these people of the right to have their own views. However, the responsibility for managing the state falls on the government. Each government has problems. We must resolve the following dilemma now: Either we have no treaty, or we have such an agreement that is possible at the moment. In my opinion, the first option is worse.

[Zukas] Speaking about the gnoseological reason, that is, the one linked with the knowledge of specific details, however, you should agree that no one has really seen the treaty. Nor have those people, who are picketing at the ministry's entrance today and who have promised to rally at other government doors in the future, read it.

[Gylys] I discern another—political—reason here. I understand that many ordinary people do not realize what issues are present or absent in the treaty. However, politicians know its contents quite well. Both sides have expressed the essential items.

[Zukas] It would be important then to learn your opinion on Mr. Ozolas' [Seimas deputy, leader of the Center Union] statements concerning not only the treaty but also the Polish ambassador [allegations of Widacki's possible cooperation with former Polish secret services].

This seems to have caused particular tensions, even though Poland did not react to Mr. Ozolas' statements as seriously as it usually does.

[Gylys] I think that this was a politically irresponsible move. I was simply shocked by Ozolas' article. He insulted not only Mr. Widacki, but also Germany and Russia. Everything is generalized—the author speaks about nations. He berates the West and the EU "a priori" only because they might back this treaty. The author maintains that we have met most Polish claims to Lithuania's sovereignty in its southeastern and eastern regions. Why such a conclusion? R. Ozolas states openly that we must claim the territories of the neighboring states. The reason might be that some of our politicians have become accustomed to acting without feedback, they have criticized and struck since 1988. We know from cybernetics that a system without feedback loses the link with reality.

[Zukas] I have a few specific questions. When will the treaty be initialed? This seems to be your duty. Is talk about President Walesa's visit to Lithuania to sign the ratified treaty grounded?

[Gylys] The treaty will be initialed very soon, within some 10 days. During our visit to Warsaw, we expect to learn the date of President Walesa's visit to the capital of Lithuania. We are looking forward to his visit. I think that this will be a very important and symbolic visit of the Polish leader to Lithuania.

[Zukas] Do you not think that L. Walesa will be welcomed with posters, pickets, and all other "symbols of the sacred religion?"

[Gylys] We are a nation of peasants, and the majority of us realize how important it is to get along with neighbors.

[Zukas] What should be the next move after the signing of the bilateral treaty?

[Gylys] We discussed this with Polish Foreign Minister Olechowski. It would be very good to organize a "round table" with the participation of politicians, businessmen, and bankers. We would specify our relations and point out the "weak points." I think that we must accomplish much in regulating our border and customs services. The free trade agreement was drafted back last April. In my opinion, Polish politicians sincerely seek definite cooperation. While I was travelling to Budapest via Warsaw, Minister Olechowski himself came to the airport, although he had promised to send his deputy. The foreign minister offered definite assistance in preparing for negotiations with the EU on free trade: "We know the process of negotiations and all the difficulties, and we are ready to share our experience with you." I stress once again: A political treaty means a favorable political background for definite relations. Our current relations are definite but not perfect due to the unfavorable background.

[Zukas] Thank you for the interview.

Embassy Reports on Progress of Moscow Talks

LD2203201794 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Embassy in the Russian Federation announced that a meeting of the Lithuanian group for the negotiations with the CIS countries and of the Russian negotiating delegation, which started yesterday, ended in Moscow today.

A draft inter-governmental agreement on the border crossing points between Lithuania and Russia was initialled during the meeting. The Lithuanian delegation submitted a list of debts to Lithuanian enterprises and organizations unpaid by the Russian Army leaving Lithuania. The Lithuanian delegation demanded that Russia fulfill the agreements signed last year where it was obliged to open a Lithuanian elementary school in Moscow. In addition, the Lithuanian delegation stressed that Lithuanian communities in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and some Siberian towns should be accommodated.

The delegations stated that the speediest coming into force of the Lithuanian-Russian agreements on trade and economic relations would help the development of mutual relations. [passage indistinct] At the next meeting the Lithuanian delegation will again propose that the return of archives removed from Lithuania be discussed. The delegation is returning to Vilnius tonight.

'Right-Wing Radicals' Oppose Treaty with Poland

PM2203141194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Lithuanian Nationalists Do Not Want Agreement With Poland"]

[Text] Vilnius—A treaty between Lithuania and Poland, ready for signing at the highest level, has been unexpectedly subjected to a harsh propaganda attack by right-wing radicals and nationalists in Lithuania.

In the last few days, they have organized a whole series of protest pickets and gatherings by ultra-patriots with resolutions containing the old demand for the mandatory mention in the treaty's preamble of the so-called "Zeligowski march on Vilnius," as a result of which, for over 20 years, the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius was called the city of Wilno and was the center of the East Polish province.

A patriotic furor was raised by Romualdas Ozolas, leader of the Centrist Alliance party and member of the Seimas, who is also one of Lithuania's most influential politicians. Known for his territorial claims against Kaliningrad Oblast and suspicion toward neighboring Belorussia [Belarus], he reacted extremely negatively to the preliminary results of talks between the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and the Poles, and to the ministry's pragmatic stance—namely, not to make historical appraisals but to limit itself to a recognition of the inviolability of borders, as is the accepted practice throughout the world. In the

midst of the arguments, the leader of the Lithuanian centrists even named the Polish ambassador in Vilnius as a secret service staffer (later, the Belorussian ambassador in Lithuania was also credited with this "flattering" characteristic).

A scandal broke. The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry was obliged to express regret over such appraisals and interpretations of the treaty. At this point, representatives of certain right-wing organizations and movements came to the aid of the chief Lithuanian patriot. Picketing of the Foreign Ministry, the Seimas, and the president's residence began. A propaganda campaign was launched in the newspapers. The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry made a statement noting in particular: The country's state interests are reflected in the draft treaty, and its text will not be published before signing—in line with a decree of the Lithuanian Government on the nonpublication of treaties being prepared for signing, and which are on the same footing as state secrets. The Foreign Ministry recalled that, as a rule, the competence of the foreign policy department is verified during the ratification in parliament of agreements prepared by diplomats.

In all probability, official Vilnius will not fall under the thumb of local nationalists. President Algirdas Brazauskas is determined to sign this treaty, which is so important for both countries. A telephone conversation on this subject took place between him and Polish President Lech Walesa, and both leaders expressed support for the bilateral agreement.

On the other hand, the Lithuanian authorities realize that the national radicals, by playing the Polish card, are not in the least concerned about state security, but rather about political advantage. In an effort to rock the atmosphere in the country, the ruling Democratic Labor Party believes, they are prepared even to rouse the dissatisfaction of the local Poles densely populating South East Lithuania. Therefore, the ruling majority is unlikely to allow the initiative to be snatched back by those who strive for power through any means. The authorities will firmly stand their ground, otherwise the nationalists may spoil everthing—relations with Poland, and relations with the local Poles.

Rendering of Credits Temporarily Suspended

WS2201201194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1505 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 461]

[Text] Vilnius, March 21, ELTA—Chairman of Debt management department of the Ministry of Finance Ruta Skyriene has partly confirmed the last-week statement of Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius which said "rendering of credits to Lithuania were suspended".

Skyriene said until there was some dimness in the system of Lithuanian banks, credits are suspended but not cancelled.

Workers of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Vilnius bureaus confirmed the information. Head of World Bank Baltic states subunit Vilnius department Ramune Zabuliene said the bank "did not suspend any project" and added that "implementation of the project of restructuring of enterprise, and financial sector is being protracted".

Skyriene said until new banking laws corresponding to international standards are not approved, process of bankruptcies is not actually realized and a prospect of Currency Board remains vague, problems with credits may remain.

Statements of the economic memorandum oblige the government to present the parliament laws of Central bank and commercial banks, to change law of bankruptcies and to present the law "On the creation of a specialized bankruptcy court". Such a court should be established before transferring the second part of EEC loan.

Officials of international institutions are not directly linking the suspension of credits with creation of the Currency Board. IMF is interested not in the Currency Board itself but in the results of the reforms, and inflation rate—first of all, as it now exceeds the allowed level.

Up to March 21, international institutions have lent Lithuania 454 million U.S. dollars, 292 million of them have been already used.

Opposition Questions Status of Oil Terminal

WS2201202494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1505 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 461]

[Text] Vilnius, March 21, ELTA—"We want to know together with the society if an oil terminal is to be built in Butinge", member of Seimas Motherland' Union faction Alfonsas Vainoras told a news conference on Monday [21 March]. He commented the memorandum of March 16 on the delay of the construction of the terminal. The memorandum was addressed to the President Algirdas Brazauskas by the Union of Motherland /Lithuanian Conservatives/.

Vainoras said a lot of political groups were interested that the object of vital importance to Lithuania was not built. In recent times, ways of development of Liepaja oil terminal are often discussed. He said these ways were unacceptable as an alternative because Latvian-Russian political relations became complicated and oil artery from Russia may be broken off.

Eimantas Dragunevicius, chairman of energy committee of Motherland' Union, who also participated in the news conference, said that Lithuania's situation in energy is worse than Estonia's or Latvia's, that's why the problem of the terminal is so important.

Dragunevicius also criticized intentions of the Ministry of Energy to privatize five biggest objects of Lithuanian energy system. It should not be done until the property is not indexed.